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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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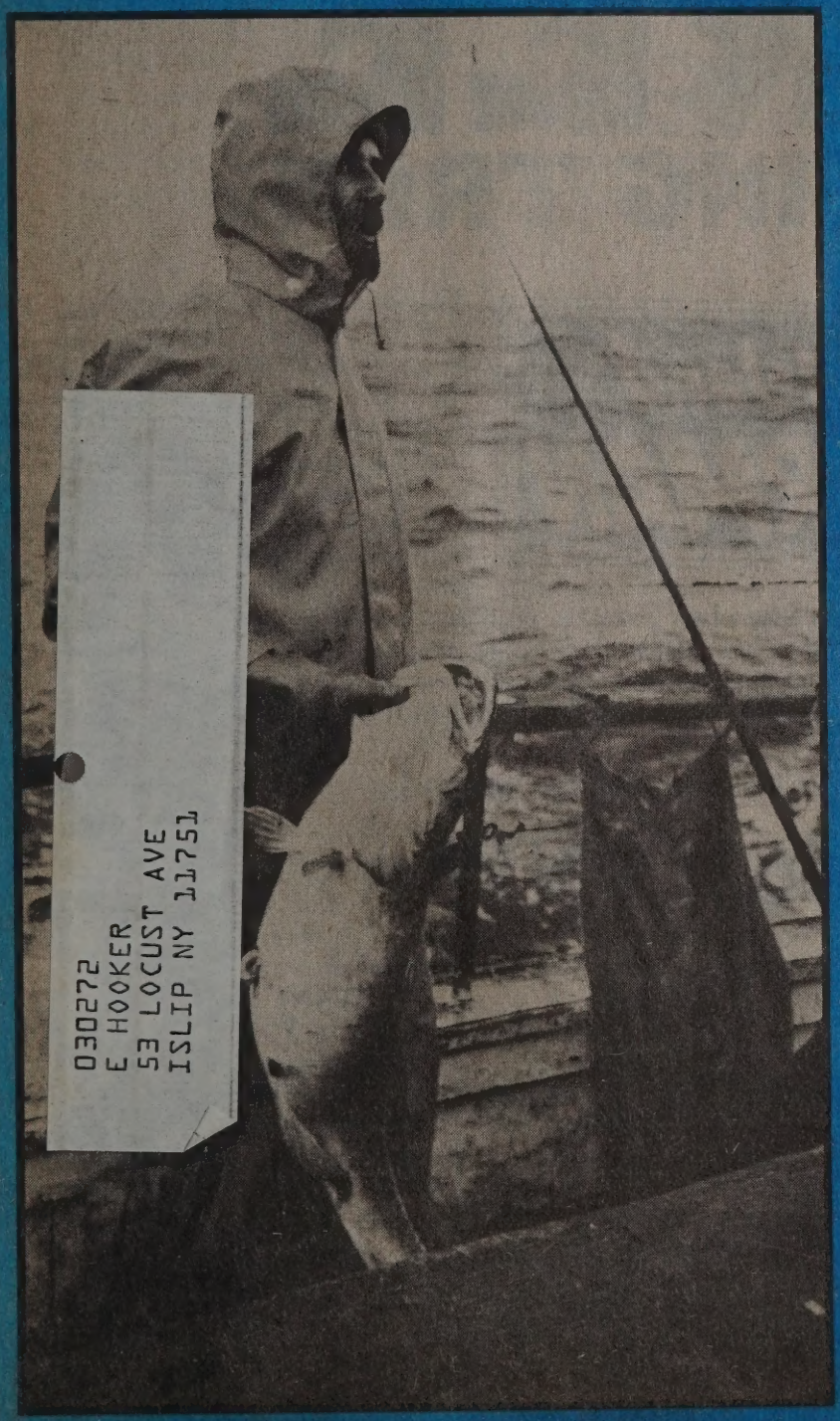
November 25th, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 47 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 17, Number 47 November 25th, 1982

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Your chances of decking a pool winner can be greatly improved by practicing the art of "open boat casting." See Gerald Hahn's article on page 12.

COMING NEXT WEEK: REEL CARE

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EDITORIAL

L.I.F. WELCOMES NEW HEAD OF D.E.C. DIVISION OF MARINE COASTAL RESOURCES

On November 8, 1982, I attended a rather informal reception at the DEC offices in Stony Brook. The purpose of the reception was to introduce Mr. Gordon Colvin as the new Director of Marine and Coastal Resources. Mr. Colvin's predecessor was Mr. Anthony Taormina, who recently retired.

Mr. Colvin is a graduate of Cornell University where he majored in biology. Following his graduation from Cornell in 1969 he went to work for the Department of Environmental Conservation. Since 1973 he has been regional supervisor of regulatory affairs in DEC Region 2 (covers New York City).

Other interesting facets of Mr. Colvin's professional and personal life include research activities at two colleges, interest in outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing, and experience with wetlands conservation.

The above references are credentials. They tell us about Mr. Colvin's training and experiences and from this information, we must conclude that he is well qualified for his new position and that DEC Albany has selected wisely from those who applied for the position. However, paper credentials tell us little about the human being. Few of those who do not know him and who will work closely with him in the days and years ahead are in a position to gauge the man and his personality and philosophies. We will need time in order to accumulate on these perspectives. Thus, it is incumbent upon all of those who are to work with him to grant him that time—time to settle in, time to test the waters, and time to let us know what he is and where he is coming from. Common courtesy suggests that we not be hasty in reaching our conclusions and allow the "new" man to make a few "new" mistakes.

I was able to chat with Mr. Colvin for several minutes at the reception. I was impressed with the man's frankness, insight into the complex issues he must deal with, and sincerity to do a tough job that needs doing. I must say I don't envy Mr. Colvin his new job. The position of Director of Marine and Coastal Resources is a hot seat. Interest groups and user groups of marine resources are traditionally known for their short tempers and sometimes a lack of political savvy. Those factors can make it hard on a man who desires to make tough and meaningful decisions and then to stick with them. On top of this he and his 38 employees must do a big job with a bare-bones budget that's getting smaller all the time. No, we don't envy the man, but we admire him in his willingness to take on an important challenge such as this one.

We were pleased to hear that the first priority of the division will be our marine resources and their habitats. It has been LIF's philosophy for the better part of two decades that if we take care of fish and their habitats, that both commercial and recreational interests will also be taken care of because there will be more fish for everyone. In order to achieve such a noble goal, we believe tough and decisive management regimes will need to be established and rigorously enforced. Historically, the Division of Marine and Coastal Resources hasn't had the stomach for that kind of fight. We don't think we're telling any tales out of school when we mention a tarnished history, because most folks, including some in DEC, would not disagree. However, we mention it for two reasons. One, we have reason to believe that there are now some of the right people at DEC who have the stomach for such an approach. We also think that Mr. Colvin has the ability and determination to lead that cause from his Stony Brook office.

Mr. Colvin, you have taken on a large and tough job. We wish you well and pledge our support and assistance in a common goal: the preservation of our marine resources and their habitats.

Julian L. Muller

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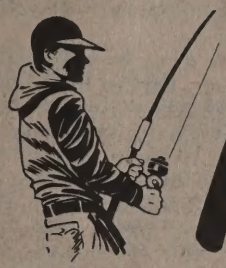

The FISHERMAN

SKILLFUL ANGLING AWARD PROGRAM

Anyone is eligible to enter **The Fisherman Skillful Angling Award Program.** Anglers meeting the required minimum weights for the species listed below will receive a certificate and patch. Fish must be weighed at an **Official Fisherman Weigh Station.**

SPORT FISHING AWARD COMPETITION

Only subscribers are eligible for the **Sport Fishing Award Competition.** Winners will be divided into three categories: Overall, Junior Division (youngsters 16 and under), and a Surf Fishing Division in which only bass, weaks and blues are eligible. Subscribers landing the largest of a species in each category will receive a plaque in recognition of their catch.

RELEASE AWARD

Fisherman subscribers who release any fish meeting the minimum required weights for the Skillful Angling Award Program will receive a certificate, suitable for framing. Fish may be weighed on any portable scale although estimated weights are acceptable for the **Release Award.** One certificate per species, per angler please.

INSHORE BOTTOM FISH

Species	Min. Wt.
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Blackfish	5
Codfish	30
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Species	Min. Wt.
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Pollack	20

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Species	Min. Wt.
Bluefin Tuna	200
Mako Shark	200
White Marlin	65
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Species	Min. Wt.
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Brook Trout	2
Rainbow Trout	2
Largemouth Bass	4

You must be a paid subscriber to **The Fisherman** at the time fish is caught to be eligible for the **Sport Fishing Award and Release Award Programs.** Contest runs from May 1 through December 15. Entries received after December 31st will be disqualified. An incomplete entry blank may result in disqualification of your catch. The editorial staff of **The Fisherman** reserves the right to award prizes as they see fit. All decisions are final.

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Pass It On...

LADY REELERS TO MEET

On December 2, 1982, the Lady Reelers will have a meeting for Members Only at the Brauhaus Restaurant, Rte. 112, Medford, NY, 7:30 PM. Anyone interested in joining should contact Linda Panciarello, President, at 516-289-5383. .

Lady Reelers Outstanding Catches for the month of October, 1982 included: Phyllis Hooker of Bluepoint, 9¼ lb. blackfish; Lorry Mangan of Terryville, 17 lb. 4 oz. bluefish, Betty Rickert of West Islip, 17 lb. 14 oz. bluefish, and an 8 lb. 8 oz. blackfish.

IMPORTANT SOS STRIPER MEETING

Save Our Stripers will conduct its annual meeting Friday, December 3, 1982 at 8PM at the Tackapausha Museum auditorium on Washington Avenue in Seaford, Long Island. Washington Avenue is the third traffic light on Sunrise Highway east of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway. The museum entrance is located about half a mile south of Sunrise Highway and one block north of Merrick Road. Admission is free.

Following a short business meeting to elect officers and directors, the program will include an update on the status of the striped bass fishery; a rundown on what the coastal states are doing about striped bass management and a report on poisoned Hudson River bass. All concerned anglers should plan to attend.

Anglers unable to attend the meeting but wishing to join can send $10 to: Membership, SOS, Box 116, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. For information phone 516-541-8676.

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The Empire Striper Association has openings for avid striped bass fishermen. The Club meets monthly at the American Legion Hall, 301 Beach 92 St., Rockaway Beach, N.Y. We offer trips, contests, post-contest breakfasts and an annual awards dance. Veteran or beginner, anyone who is interested in striped bass fishing and being part of an active, involved club is invited to join.

For full details or travel directions, please call Joe McNamara at (212) 848-3481.

CHUM LINES

NICE WORDS FOR A GOOD CREW!

I would like to tell you about a bluefish trip I recently went on aboard the Amberjack V out of Sheepshead Bay, N.Y.

The boat left the dock at 7PM promptly on Saturday. There was a crowd of about 65 people plus the crew. Two of the crew members kept themselves busy preparing the bait and chum in the stern of the boat. One of the mates, Charlie was collecting the fares. I asked one of the mates preparing the smelts how long of a ride we had. His name was Sean and he replied about one hour and 45 minutes. So I went inside the cabin, got some coffee and sharpened my hooks.

When we arrived at the grounds, the wind and seas had picked up. To put it short, it got very nasty out! Three mates were in the bow readying the anchor. As soon as the captain gave the signal to fish, I put my line in the water and tried my hardest to catch one, but I didn't. Neither did anyone else! The captain realized it was just too rough to fish that night.

Well, the crew kept the people in good spirits by giving $10 rebates and we raffled the pool off.

I'd just like to say thanks for a safe ride home and a pretty interesting evening. Thank you's to Capt. Tony, 1st mate skippy, Charlie, Joey, Sean,

Kevin & Marc, Millie. Sincerely, *Bob Miller, Woodmere, NY.*
Thanks for sending this letter. All too often we hear the complaints. We know there is a lot of good out there and it might be a good idea if more nice people and good deeds were written about; it might make our days more tolerable. Dr. W.A. Muller.

WHY THROW AWAY THE BEST PARTS?

I read your magazine regularly and find it one of the most informative publications around anywhere. I have been fishing for nearly 20 years now on the Island and have caught almost everything imaginable. Most of my fishing has been surf fishing until lately in which I tried charter boats.

My question is probably the most interesting one you have ever encountered. When I catch fish like striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, etc., I always save the best eating part of the fish which happens to be the fish liver and the eggs when available. As you can imagine a 40 lb. bass has a lot of liver and eggs in it. Why is it then that most fishermen throw away everything except the white meat??? Also why are only fish eggs from a sturgeon considered a delicacy???? Have you ever tried fish livers or fish eggs? *Charles Eng, Lindenhurst, NY. There are many people who enjoy the liver and roe of fish and, contrary to what you may believe, not everyone throws these away. However, most people do give these parts the heave-ho. In most cases, the discard probably results from cultural conditioning. That is, most of us have spent our lives being told that one doesn't eat the entrails of living creatures. Now, of course, many of us can conveniently forget this when we eat clams or oysters, but when it comes to finfish, we want only the muscular parts. As you point out, caviar is another exception. Most folks know it comes from the roe of a sturgeon. Actually, in today's world there is a very good reason for not eating parts of fish other than the muscular portions. As you know there are many toxic chemicals contaminating our waters. Not all waters are tainted but fish unfortunately swim from clean to contaminated water and back again. Thus, most living things are exposed to at least some amounts of these toxic substances. It is the job of the liver to detoxify these materials and in so doing, they sort of "trap" it and hold it away from other parts of the body. In general, many poisons are fat soluble so they also tend to concentrate in fatty tissues such as the roe. Therefore, eating these tissues causes a person to ingest concentrated amounts of toxic materials: or at least opens the potential for same. Take striped bass. We know that many bass have been observed to contain high levels of PCBs. Levels in the flesh can be too high, but levels in the liver, roe, and other fatty tissues can be 10 to 1000 times higher.* Dr. W.A. Muller.

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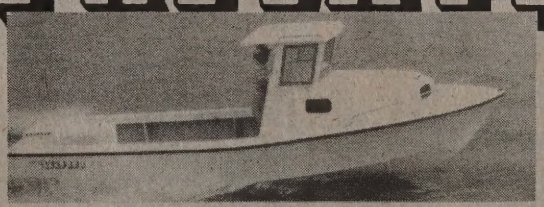

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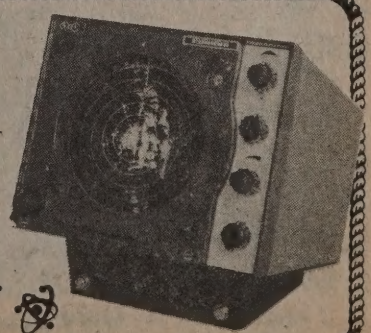

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BILLFISH BEING MONITORED

by Al Ristori

Most anglers probably don't realize it, but Atlantic billfish populations are under the nominal control of ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas). I say nominal, because ICCAT has never done anything more than discuss billfish at the scientific level. Indeed, one American scientist once stated that "ICCAT wouldn't do anything about blue marlin until there were only two left in the Atlantic—and they were both males!"

Fortunately, due to the Conte Amendment at the time the 200-mile limit bill was being passed, we do have control of billfish within our zone—and can also discuss international cooperation within ICCAT. A good deal of work has been done on billfishes at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Fisheries Center in Miami, and the various catch and effort trends were summarized for the scientific Committee meetings at ICCAT.

Japanese longline catches provide the basic statistics upon which trends are developed. However, it's suspected that the Japanese longline catch is becoming a smaller proportion of the whole and other countries are being urged to provide similarly complete statistics.

In the case of blue marlin, there seems to be a slight upward trend after years of steady decline. In the early 60s, the Japanese North Atlantic catch was very heavy, hitting a high point of 4759 metric tons in 1963—though the highest index of abundance was the 10.37 in 1962. That steadily declined until hitting a low point of 1.43 in 1977. In the latest reporting period from 1978 to 1980 it's been rising slowly. The 1980 actual catch of 223 metric tons is very small, but the index of abundance at 3.17 is the highest since 1970. The same trend seems to be apparent in the only area where there are good recreational catch statistics over a period of time—the Gulf of Mexico. The blue marlin catch has been up and down there, but the approximately three blues per 100 hours hooked since 1978 (including preliminary 1982 figures) is about 20 percent better than the success ratio recorded in the early and mid-70s. Local anglers feel this has something to do with the elimination of Japanese summer longlining in the Gulf.

The conclusion of the scientists is that blue marlin were overexploited in the early to mid-70s, but that fishing effort from 1978 to 1980 has been below the level needed to take the maximum sustainable yield. The management recommendation was to closely monitor the fishery.

The situation for white marlin in the North Atlantic is pretty much the same. Japanese longline records indicate that the peak of abundance occurred in 1965 when 1913 metric tons were boated and the index of abundance was 3.63. That index dropped less sharply than for blue marlin, but hit a low point of 0.86 in 1977 and was only 0.98 in the last year for which data was available: 1980. The Gulf of Mexico recreational catch has varied widely since 1970 from about 2.5 white hooked per 100 hours trolling to over six in the same period. The trend has been down the last two years, but that may not be meaningful. Once again, the scientists call for close monitoring of the stock.

Sailfish and spearfish have been lumped together in longline catch data and this makes it difficult to get

A night out at the Hudson Canyon paid off for these lucky anglers, but night swordfishing is only a shade of what it was a few years ago.

any handle on the abundance of the species. Sails are more of an inshore fish and relatively few are caught on longlines—and then mostly in the Gulf of Mexico. Spearfish, on the other hand, are oceanic fish which only occasionally come inshore far enough to be caught by trollers—but which are commonly longlined. The U.S. scientists are stressing to other nations the importance of separating statistics on the two species in order to get a true picture of each.

While other countries take the marlins as a by-catch in their tuna fisheries, there are many directed fisheries for swordfish. Longlining for swords off our coasts continues to expand rapidly, even as catch rates decline. Much of the Gulf shrimp fleet is virtually out of business due to foreign restrictions and a lack of shrimp to support a much bigger fleet in home waters. Many of these boats are being converted to longlining. This year there were 470 American longliners with incidental catch permits for bluefin tuna, almost double the number from two years before—and their numbers will increase to over 500 next year.

Swordfish landings in the Atlantic continue to increase (the 1980 figure was 20,4000 metric tons), but in the Northwest Atlantic the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) has declined steadily from 1974 to 1980 (with the exception of 1977). The night deep water sport fishery started in the Straits of Florida in the late 70s and produced great fishing for awhile. However, the mounting longline pressure quickly took its toll. The longline CPUE dropped 29 percent from 1979 to 1980, and catches are maintained only by increasing effort and traveling further offshore. The sport fishing in Florida, concentrated in Gulf Stream waters nearer to shore, has been reduced to a few odd fish.

The same trend is evident in local waters. After an initial spurt of night action in the canyons a few years ago, swordfishing has dropped off to just an occasional catch. Research in the Straits of Florida indicates that females are being heavily exploited, but that there is still a safety margin on males. Once again, close monitoring of the stock is called for.

After hearing about all this close monitoring, I pressed for an explanation of just what that entails. Basically, it means more research in four areas: stock assessment research; life history aspects and basic biological parameters; basic fisheries data; and stock structure and distribution. A better reading on the U.S. recreational catch is being sought (the 1978 survey being used in the present statistics is a joke!) and tagging is encouraged. At one time it was suspected that white marlin were as short-lived as sailfish, but one recent recovery had to be at least 13-years-old. Techniques are being developed to use electron microscopy to determine age and growth from otoliths.

Additional data is being obtained from observers on the Japanese longline vessels, but I questioned why all live released billfish from those vessels weren't being tagged. There's an especially difficult problem involved in obtaining tagging returns on blue marlin and swordfish because sportsmen just don't catch and release enough. It's a shame to pass up the potential data that could come from the Japanese longlining. I pushed for a requirement that the released fish be tagged when I sat in on the formation of the original billfish and sharks PMP, but the Department of Commerce was reluctant to require the Japanese longliners to do anything at the time. The attitude is a bit different now, and Carmen Blondin promised to look into this opportunity.

Now that we're finally approaching 100% observer coverage on the Japanese longliners, we should get a better insight into just what is being released—and in what condition. That latter factor can fool even observers. Captain B.J. Putnam, chairman of the Gulf Council and a former charter skipper, told me that two blue marlin released "dead" (but tagged) in the Gulf were later trolled by sport fishing boats!

Results obtained from observers covering 13 Japanese longliners fishing a total of 337 days between June 30 and September 30 revealed a minimal by-catch except on swordfish. There were just 13 blue marlin, of which only five were dead. Of 66 whites, 44 were dead, while five of spearfish were released alive. There were 501 swordfish, of which 251 were dead—a rather low mortality rate for that species. The estimated swordfish weight involved was 23.863 metric tons. Lots of sharks also came up on the tuna longlines. By far the most abundant were blue sharks with 2223 (about half the number of the targeted bigeyes caught) and only a 4.8% mortality rate. Next most abundant were makos, with 57 shortfins and six of the deep water longfin variety. In addition, there were 77 other makos which weren't identified as to species. Unfortunately, there was a higher mortality rate on makos (in the teens). The only other abundant shark was the hammerhead (83), but 13 porbeagles were caught along with a few threshers and duskies—and one sandbar (brown).

To say that there's much to be learned about billfish is to put it mildly. Local white marlin fishing has been up and down for years, but blue marlin seem to be getting more abundant in the canyons—or maybe it's only the new high speed techniques which are drawing more hits and making them seem more abundant. In any case, there is some work being done—and, hopefully, we won't have to get down to the last two blue marlin before management measures are introduced. You can do your bit in helping out by tagging any released billfish—and releasing all that aren't going to be used for food or mounting.

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OPEN BOAT CASTING TECHNIQUES

by Gerald Hahn

"Casting" from head boats has its place and learning this technique could help to improve your score.

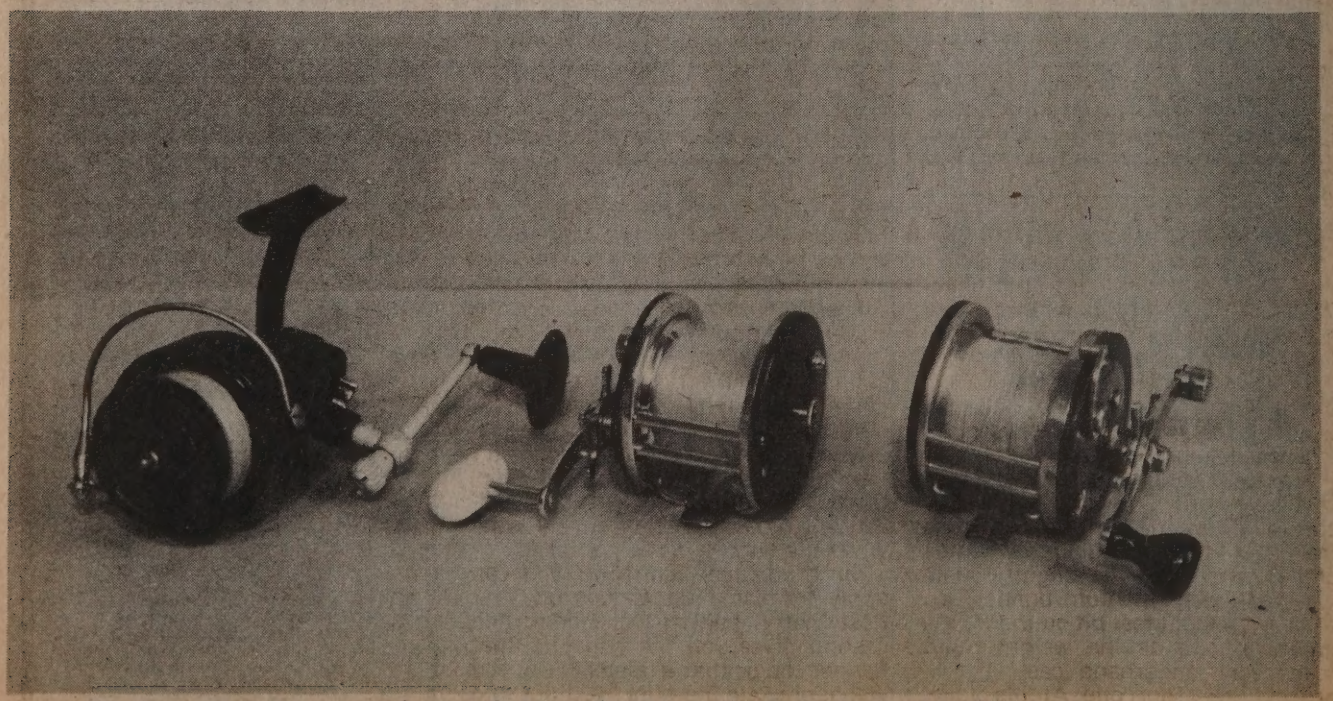
Most fishing books give clear directions for learning how to cast with conventional or baitcasting tackle; the only problem is that the directions are of little use to the saltwater angler. For most of his fishing needs, the typical saltwater angler resorts to spinning gear. In fact, one of the few places I see him use conventional equipment is on a party boat, where overhand casts, commonly illustrated in books, are not permitted. Moreover, the reels used on party boats are heavy, free-spool types, without levelwinds to make casting easier. Adept at casting with a spinning reel, the beginner is afraid to cast with a conventional reel. For good reasons, too; he knows that the price of a faulty cast may be a backlash and a bird's-nest, certain to put him out of commission just when the fish are biting.

Many times, the beginner can get by without casting from a party boat. For instance, when fishing from an anchored boat over a wreck or reef, or when chum is scattered under the boat, he knows enough about a conventional reel to put it in free spool while thumbing the line—the baited rig simply drops to the bottom. Similarly, when fishing from a "one-side only" drifting boat, he can drop his rig to the ocean floor and let the boat pull out the extra line, even though casting would get it there faster. Even artificials can be worked efficiently in some instances without knowing how to cast with a conventional reel. At the Patchogue Banks, for example, most of the bluefish feed near the bottom, over a hundred feet below. The captain maneuvers the boat directly over the fish, and the beginner drops his diamond jig to the bottom. Nine times out of ten, a blue will smash the lure as soon as the angler begins his retrieve.

But when the blues thin out, the cod or porgies or blackfish scatter, when the beginner is on the "wrong" side of the boat (his line moving under the boat), when it becomes necessary to cast far away from the boat, he catches few fish. Moreover, he misses the thrill of fishing actively; he is resigned to fishing passively. In passive fishing, the angler waits for the quarry to come to him. In active fishing, he seeks out the fish. It is one thing to catch fish close to the boat when everyone else is catching them; it is quite another achievement to catch fish when others cannot because they do not know how to cast with conventional gear.

Conventional gear is required on most party boats because the fish are large, the water deep, and the currents strong. Monofilament of 40 pound test and sinkers weighing between 8 and 14 ounces, are commonly used. Spinning tackle works efficiently with lines up to 30 pound test, and perhaps weights up to four ounces. Great for casting light stuff, but a spinning rod, with its sensitive tip, does not perform adequately when heavy terminal tackle is required. Moreover, when lures or baits must constantly be worked back and forth in the water, the deficiencies of a spinning reel show up as well. It is cumbersome to open and close the bail every time the rig is worked, whereas the free-spool lever on a conventional reel releases line instantly.

. Casting from a party boat is per-



Casting with spinning gear is easy, but "casting" from the deck of a head boat takes some practice.

formed underhand because there is no room to do otherwise. Learning how to accomplish an underhand cast properly with conventional tackle requires practice, and the worst place to practice is on a party boat. Better to try it on the lawn or in a clear, open space. To simulate actual fishing conditions on a party boat, it is useful to create a fishing rail with a 1x2 set horizontally, about three feet high (perhaps resting it on the backs of two chairs). Even better, try casting from a porch fence or an entrance gate. Now imagine two people fishing alongside you: one on your left, the other on your right. Your conventional reel should be filled with a good grade of monofilament, its weight depending on the type of fishing you normally do on a party boat (about 30 to 50 pound test). Tie an appropriate weight, again simulating the sinker weight generally used on the boat (about 6-12 ounces). The rod should be a conventional type, between six and eight feet long.

Learning how to cast underhand properly requires educating your thumb which is used to control the line as it comes off the spool. The beginner tends to press too firmly on the spool when he casts. Then realizing that the cast is going to be short, he overcompensates by releasing his thumb altogether from the spool, and the result is a backlash. When thumb pressure is not applied, an override occurs. That is, the spool revolves faster than the outgoing line, large loops come off the spool, tangle with the outgoing line, and jam the reel. One way to reduce this when practicing, is to tighten the bearing screw, usually located in the center of the left side plate of the reel. (On left-handed models, it will be on the right side plate.) Tightening this screw is generally not recommended by the manufacturer because it will eventually damage the bearings. But for brief practice casts, it slows down the spool and reduces casting distance. A tight spool has less of a tendency to override, should your coordination be faulty; it is also better to make proper short casts at the beginning, so that you will develop good thumb control.

Pour some water on the line on your spool; otherwise you may burn your thumb. Turn the click ratchet to the off position, and set the drag under the line's breaking point. Place your thumb firmly on the spool and open the free spool lever. Then put the rod over the "rail" and lower the tip. Let out a foot or two or line until the weight is slightly above the ground. (If possible, stand on a higher level so that the rod can be lowered to a nearly vertical position.) Swing the weight several times toward you and away from you, like a pendulum, by raising and lowering the rod slightly, until you feel the momentum build. Then ease up the **slightest bit** on the thumb pressure, and as the weight rises, make your underhand cast. It will probably be a short one. At this stage, concentrate solely on thumb pressure, not distance casting. As soon as the weight hits the ground, press firmly on the spool again to stop its movement, and engage the free spool lever. Move your hand in front of the spool, grasping the line between your thumb and index finger. Or you may press down on the line here (onto the foregrip) to wedge it against the post frame of the reel. Now begin your retrieve, working the line back in criss-cross fashion onto the spool, so that it is snug and evenly distributed. Often overlooked, proper spooling assists the drag system and is essential to making subsequent casts effectively. It should be done even when playing a fish. In the excitement of trying to bring a large blue to gaff, I once forgot to do this. The line kept building up on one side of the spool, and when the fish was about three-quarters of the way up, the mound of line suddenly collapsed onto the low part of the spool and jammed the reel. The result was a lost fish and a backlash.

Repeat the same short casts, over and over, until you gain confidence. Then try easing up **gradually** on your thumb pressure, and watch the casts go farther. When you have the rhythm, you may loosen the bearing screw to its original position and try some more casts. Do not loosen the screw too much because there will be excessive end play of the spool, and on some reels, the line can get caught here. You will be amazed at the distance you can now attain without backlashing.

Another casting method that is frequently used by experienced fishermen on party boats resembles shovelling snow. The rod is pointed down, as before, but one hand cups the end of the handle, like a shovel or a push-broom. Then, as this hand pushes down on the handle, the other hand (with a thumb on the spool) is simultaneously lifted. The gesture, though more extreme, is similar to shovelling snow. Of course, the thumb must release the monofilament at the right time, as mentioned earlier. It's amazing how far a lure or rig can go with this single movement of the rod. Practice the "shovelling method" after you learn the first method.

Although most fishing books advise the angler to turn his wrist so that the reel handle faces up, it is not necessary to do this when casting underhand from a party boat. In fact, it may be better to have the spool facing up at the beginning, so that you can concentrate on your thumb. After awhile you will not have to look at your fingers, and then you can try casting with the handle up, if you feel more comfortable this way. Theoretically, it is easier to flick your wrist when the handle is up.

Once you feel confident, you can apply the same techniques on your next party boat trip. And when casting gives you the edge for that hanger cod or that alligator blue, you will appreciate the effort you put into becoming an "active fisherman."

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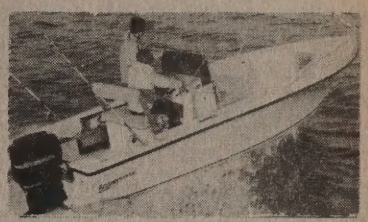
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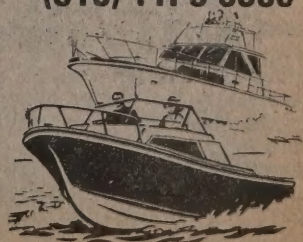

LOVE YOUR SURF TACKLE

by John Fritz

Surf fishing equipment takes a real beating from the elements, making proper maintenance at season's end a vital chore.

For all practical purposes the majority of surfcasters called it quits back in mid-November. For some, the outdoor season was extended by stalking through the North Woods in pursuit of the elusive whitetail while others were to be found on Long Island's wind-swept marshes patiently awaiting a brace of black duck to swing over the decoys. Others not so inclined have been caught up in the holiday preparations, all with the end result that much of our expensive equipment has lain forgotten wherever it was was dropped following that last trip of the season.

Certain tools of our sport are not affected by this negligence, for they can be refurbished when time permits with no lasting damage. Unfortunately a few particular items demand immediate attention or they could be damaged and require replacement. Knowledgeable fishermen will formulate a broad maintenance schedule whereby each article of equipment is prepared for spring with priority items taken care of at the close of each season.

The most significant items are the all important reels which should never be tossed into a forgotten corner and left unattended for weeks on end. Even if the reels cannot be thoroughly cleaned immediately, the side plate and handle should be removed and the interior of the reel liberally sprayed with a penetrating lubricant such as WD-40. Special attention should be given to the bearings and shafts for salt and moisture deposits can cause a great deal of grief if left for a period of time. With this minimum maintenance performed, expensive replacement costs can be avoided until time can be found during the winter to completely strip the reel, cleaning away all old grease and corrosion, checking parts for wear and thoroughly coating each part with lubricant before reassembly. Grooved rollers, pitted bearings or chewed up gears should be replaced now when there is ample time to wait for back orders to be filled. During the spring rush, many tackle shops find it difficult to maintain a supply of parts; therefore, a wise angler will locate the needed parts now, for frequently it could mean ordering direct from the manufacturer. If a reel cannot be repaired at home, this is the time to take it to a reputable repair shop, for with the approach of spring the work load of many tackle stores is unlikely to ensure quick service.

It's not unusual for a surf reel to spend part of its life submerged. Such use demands priority treatment when maintenance time rolls around.

Many do-it-yourself repairmen are uncertain as to the type grease best suited for packing reels intended for saltwater use. The Surfcaster, through his catalogue, offers a fine product which is used extensively by many hard-working surfmen, myself included. Other veteran anglers simply coat all interior parts and fill the housing cavity with a good quality wheel bearing grease. Whatever the choice, the main thought is that the time spent servicing your reels now will pay dividends in the future, either from a monetary viewpoint or with the secure feeling that when that trophy fish is finally hooked, a smooth operating reel will greatly increase your chance of success.

The item next on my agenda is care of your waders, for a good quality wader is probably the single most expensive piece of gear a surfcaster will purchase. Before stowing, all waterproof clothing should be sponged with lukewarm water and hung to dry in an area not in the direct rays of the sun. After the articles are thoroughly dry, a careful inspection for leaks, tears, or worn areas should be undertaken. Any hole in the waders will easily be revealed by inserting a drop light inside the waders while in a darkened room. Small holes in rubber waders can frequently be patched by

purchasing a tube repair kit at the auto section of your local department store. Other materials, such as that used in Gra-lites, require a special adhesive. Owners of Gra-lites should have received a kit containing this glue and a section of vinyl when the waders were originally purchased. This adhesive has a limited shelf life which, after a period of time, will congeal and be rendered useless. Replacement kits can be ordered, also through the Surfcaster catalogue. Irreparable damage means the purchase of new waders, but owners of Gra-lites with damaged boots can send the waders back to the company in Palatine, Ill. where new boots can be substituted.

The cost of replacing a good quality top, such as the Helly Hansen, has skyrocketed much like everything else in this day and age. Tears or rips can most likely be repaired permanently by gluing and sewing a patch of similar material over the damaged area. My experience has shown that these patches will not last when simply glued on) therefore, a stitching of nylon thread should be added along the outer edge of the patch, followed by a bead of Plio Bond glue along the edge.

One last thought before storing your gear, and that is to check the felt soles to see whether there is sufficient material left for another season on the rocks. If not, this is the time to secure a supply of felt and get busy with the glue. If your waders are not equipped with felt or a similar non-skid material, this is a good time for investigating that project. Kits for just that purpose are available from tackle stores such as Johnny's in Montauk, which cater to surfcasters or from the Surfcaster's catalogue.

Once the waders and top are serviced to your satisfaction hang them in some out of the way place free from any danger of tears or puncturing, away from heat, oils, and the ruin of all rubber products—sunlight.

Before we abandon the coverage of apparel, a few thoughts on the care of wet suits would seem to be in order for those of you so attired. A thorough soaking in fresh water is the first step before prolonged storage. After the garment is completely dry, check closely for tears or opened seams and seal with the specialized glue which can be purchased at your nearest Dive Shop. Zippers and snaps in good condition should be coated with silicone. If any of these parts are broken, now is the time to have them replaced.

If, during the past season's use, you found that those extra pounds added to the midriff made the suit extremely uncomfortable, do not despair. No, I'm not going to suggest a diet, although that probably is the best solution, but rather have a piece added to the suit to allow for that additional poundage. One such place which can take care of all these needs is Diver's Way located at 596 Sunrise Highway in Bay Shore.

Now that the two critical areas have been taken care of, the remaining tasks can be undertaken at a more leisurely pace. A complete refinishing of your rods is usually unnecessary, but a thorough washing with a mild soap solution will remove salt deposits and other substances which can mar the finish. Follow the soap with a rinse of fresh water. The supports and base sections of the guides are susceptible to corrosive action which can be cleaned without damage to the metal finish by using a brass wire brush. Brushes of this type are used to clean firearms and a wide variety of sizes can be obained from most sporting goods stores. Aside from the exterior appearances of fishing rods, the most likely items of concern when actually fishing are the guides. Broken guides without a doubt should be replaced whereas bent guides, if treated gently can often be reshaped while still mounted on the rod. The one not so apparent flaw, which should be investigated carefully is grooving of the inside surface of the guide ring. Obvious notches can be detected by eye but a more certain method to reveal the minor grooves is to place a piece of thread or light monofilament line through the eye of the guide. Using two hands and exerting pressure on the line to pull it taut and against the inside of the ring, slowly rotate the line making sure the complete circle is tested. If the slightest imperfection is detected, the guide should be replaced because a line will readily fray when rubbed across this surface under the pressure of fighting a fish.

As the start of the season draws near, immediate attention can be given to polishing tins and repainting those once pretty wooden plugs. Rusted and bent hooks should be discarded, the plug given a light sanding, and before the final coat of paint is applied, the wood should be sealed with a coat of spar varnish. Paints which will dry to a high gloss finish are desired with special thought given to the most productive color combinations of the past year.

Wooden plugs, such as the darters and bottle plugs, which have had the leading lips smashed against submerged rocks should have the lip sanded smooth and coated with a layer of epoxy before painting. This hardened coating will give more protection to the leading edge of these popular plugs.

Any maintenance chore which can be completed before the season begins will allow the angler total use of his spare time for fishing once the spring run begins. Tasks undertaken in the frenzy of a late start often result in slipshod work. Supplies of hooks and terminal gear, replacement of plugs lost or destroy, freshly spooled line on all reels, whatever needs to be taken care of, if done beforehand, will permit the knowledgeable angler to begin the season with the confidence that his gear will be equal to any task required.

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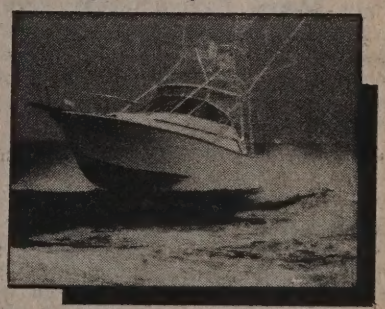

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CLOAKED IN MYSTERY

by Ed Haring

In this tale of days gone by, the author relives his youthful introduction to Montauk at the hands of "Vito the iceman."

The first shock waves of the Stock Market crash were making themselves apparent in 1930. Farewell to High School; the first pair of long pants and a "temporary job"—which ended in retirement more than 49 years later. Half of the $50 monthly salary kept the wolves from the door, while the balance took care of fares, lunches, clothing and entertainment. Retrieving nickel refund bottles at construction sites in a pull wagon provided enough extra money to be able to purchase a Pflueger nickel-plated reel, greenheart rod and wicker basket. The latter was the mark of a real fisherman. Skipping a few lunches provided enough to make an overnight trip to Atlantic City aboard the luxurious "Au Revoir."

Matt Ahern does not exaggerate when he tells of the fabulous catches made in those days. In addition to a solidly packed wicker basket, I towed a burlap bag loaded with huge sea bass, porgies and blackfish. I was not the most popular passenger aboard the Ocean Avenue trolley that Sunday in July. Before distributing the fish among the neighbors, a few choice specimens were set aside for the peddlers who supplied most of our daily needs. Flatbush was lightly settled and stores a long walk away. Besides they would sell on the cuff when funds were non-existent. Probably the most liked among these tradesmen was "Vito the Iceman."

Vito and his horse Rosie took care of most of our energy needs. Rosie always wore a straw hat with a big faded rose in front. Vito kept our food supply fresh and never complained when the kids gathered shards of ice from his wagon on hot days. In winter he kept the home fires burning with 100 pound bags of coal for the kitchen range. That took care of our cooking and also kept those railroad rooms a few degrees above the zero mark. Yes, we had a hot air furnace, but who could afford a ton of coal at $12.50 C.O.D.?

Vito was so pleased with the fish that he invited me and my buddy, Walt to make a trip with him to Montauk over Labor Day weekend. Parental permission was granted with a minimum of instructions. Walt and I were beside ourselves with excitement. Three whole days away from home—our first vacations.

It was still dark when a truck puffed and wheezed up the block. It looked more like a prairie schooner that had traded its team of oxen for a stubby hawk-nosed engine. Vito had thousands of cousins and one of them, Sal, was in the front seat. Walt and I had the back to ourselves amid piles of burlap bags. Many streets were unpaved and as we bounced along, our posteriors and the truck bed moved in opposite directions.

Montauk Highway will not be remembered for its scenic beauty. Thickets of scrub oak, pine, and marsh grass separated the towns, which usually consisted of a railroad station, a church, maybe a bank, a store and a few unimpressive buildings. We dozed off until our ears and noses were assailed by an unearthly clatter and a stench that defies description—the duck farms! They seemed endless. Across Shinnecock Bay, we could see hundreds of houses, like a city on stilts. (Eight years later, I viewed the devastation of this colony caused by the hurricane that created Shinnecock and Moriches Inlets.)

Now we were in a whole new world. The stately Canoe Place Inn, with long, shiny touring cars and limousines, the Shinnecock Hills with an occasional manor house perched among them. We gawked at the palatial homes in Southampton. Vito took us on a cook's tour of the town. Some of the massive beach houses were already being boarded up forever—victims of the Depression. Others had gay lawn parties in progress. The guests stared at the monstrosity in which we rode as much as we did at the Cadillacs, Packards, Graham Paiges and other luxury cars parked in their driveways. Foreign cars were well represented even then and Rolls Royces were commonplace. Main Street, East Hampton was much the same as today. The old windmill impressed us every bit as much as the splendid houses.

There wasn't much more to Amagansett than a sharp turn in the road and then the beginning of a long, beautiful series of the highest sand dunes one could imagine. Next thing we knew we were treated to the thrills of a roller coaster as we neared Montauk. How well that experience, and the wonderful view of the rolling ocean to our right lingers. The quaint Village of Montauk was a far cry from today's bustling port. In fact, it had an entirely different location. Instead of being on the shores of Lake Montauk, it lay on Fort Pond Bay for the most part. A few small houses were scattered about, a number of long wooden sheds and boatyards and, of course, a fleet of fishing vessels. There were a handful of recreational craft—a far cry from today's fleet, and a fair number of sturdy weather-beaten trawlers. Here and there fisherman mended their nets and other gear at a leisurely pace. The deeper ruts in the road were filled in with shells and were as comfortable to ride on as our present city streets. As soon as Vito and Sal greeted their friends we were given a bucket of clams and directed to try our luck from one of the piers.

No sooner did our lines touch bottom than our baits were swallowed by sand porgies a bit larger than hand-sized. These scrappers were returned. The action never did slow down. Then we saw shiners leaping all over. We cut up a couple of porgies for bait, modified our rigs, and grew arm weary hauling in nice sized snappers and tinker mackerel. Vito sauntered over and advised us to keep some of the mackerel as bait for the next day. He also directed us to a sedgey point a few hundred yards away, told us to rig for bottom fishing and cast out. Needless to say, this resulted in more backlashes than distance but some nice fat flounder were unmindful of our shortcoming.

I never had any idea that a truck bed could be as hard and as cold as it turned out to be. Even with piles of bags over and under us our teeth chattered. Mercifully day broke and Vito, some of his friends and the two of us piled into a Model T and we were off to Sunday Mass.

After dropping his friends off, Vito borrowed the car and we were off to see the Lighthouse. A good number of deer scattered from the roadside when suddenly from one of the rises, the stately beacon came into view. Talk about impressive! On reaching the next rise, the whole vista changed. A fog bank moved in and obscured the whole upper portion. We never saw the top again that morning. We explored the area for about an hour and did not see one surfcaster.

On the way back, we turned off on what must have been East Lake Drive. Again, not a soul in sight. Vito produced a butter tub with a heavy tarred line neatly coiled in it. Yesterday's mackerel were cut into strips about six inches long. He also

gave us each a fluke hook with about a two inch piece of mother of pearl on the snell. Whirling his heavy sinker, he let the rig fly far out over the sand bars and began a slow steady retrieve. A hefty fluke rewarded his efforts. He advised us to use the same method rather than our regular tackle. Reluctantly we did this and at the end of an hour, 12 nice fluke lay on the beach.

When we got back to the village, the loading of the truck was well under way. We offered to help store the crates aboard but were shooed away. "We were guests, not laborers." With nothing else to do Walt and I set out to do some sightseeing. A deep powerful hum drew us to an obscure, apparently man-made cove where two sleek speedboats were moored. A mechanic was deeply engrossed in tuning the engines of one. The high marsh grass hid us from one another. These had all the earmarks of the rum runners pictured in the newspapers and we decided that in this case, silence should be maintained at least until we got home. Butter fried fluke fillets and more spaghetti served as our last repast at Montauk before another chilly night in the truck. Most of the burlap bags covered the stacks of cases which somehow did not smell as fishy as we expected, nor did there seem to be any ice to preserve the catch. We asked Vito about this and he explained the fish were baccala and were dried, while the remainder were smoked.

We left Sal behind and Reardon, a retired city policeman, replaced him. I cannot say I liked him. He was loud, overbearing and used cuss words to punctuate every sentence. When questioned about anything, he would swear on his mother's grave to bear out the veracity of his statement (she was still living somewhere in south Brooklyn). One thing about him though, he seemed to know every policeman we encountered on the way back. He told us traffic would be lighter along Jericho Turnpike and we followed that route after Vito took on many bags of potatoes in the Southampton area. Walt and I added to the load by buying a sack apiece. At seventy-five cents for a hundred pounds of the finest, who could go wrong? The trip back was uneventful except for Reardon getting out in Riverhead and Smithtown to shake hands with uniformed buddies.

Two weeks later, the papers carried the news that a truck had been stopped on Deer Park Avenue just north of Babylon laden with the finest bootleg Scotch. Vito, the driver, was apprehended, while a passenger escaped into the heavy underbrush. No one in the neighborhood ever saw or heard of Vito again. Was our excursion a dry run or the real thing? How often I wondered but there is no way I'll ever find out. Fifty-three years later, an element of mystery still shrouds that memorable journey to Montauk.

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HUNTING THE WINTER KING

by Matt Ahern

Our resident sinker bouncer reviews some of the hows and whys of winter codfishing.

Early morning in mid-November. Beyond Jones Inlet the green-black ocean lay calm and inviting. Artie Leidecker's thirty-foot "Echo" rode the slight heave with ease as we drilled our way to the Steel Wreck. There were three of us aboard—three dyed-in-the-wool cod fanatics. I don't know how my two buddies were affected, but the thought of connecting with an outsized cod or two actually set my legs to trembling. It's true, I guess: there's no fisherman quite like a winter codfisherman.

Artie and I had planned this assault on the cod weeks before. As usual, we had run the gamut of summertime fluke, sea bass, porgies, and what-have you. As enjoyable as this fishing can be, it was the thought and expectation of winter cod which had quickened our pulse and caused us to count the days and impatiently wish summer away. For many years, Artie and I have called this our "first cod of the season" trip. Many more trips would follow throughout the winter, but for us this was the one which had its own special flavor and appeal.

We had left our Island Park mooring some 45 minutes earlier at daybreak and as we headed out into the ocean the sun was already above the horizon. The faint breeze we had first noticed in Reynold's Channel still held southwesterly. Weatherwise, it would be a glorious day.

Some 40 minutes after we had passed the inlet's bell buoy, Artie slowed the engine and raised his binoculars. Charlie Hall, Artie's good friend and neighbor, ran to tend the anchor. The Echo made slow, ever-increasing circles. I stood by with the marker buoy as Artie picked out his shore ranges. Giving his depth-recorder a quick check, he nodded to me and I heaved over the sash-weighted plastic jug. Five minutes later we lay tethered to our anchor, the buoy 20 feet astern.

We baited with skimmer clam and wished each other luck on the first cod. Eight-ounce sinkers quickly took our 5/0 hooks and 30 pound monofilament to the bottom. In seconds I could feel bergalls working over the skimmer. As usual, Artie had done a good job of putting us on the wreck.

While I re-baited my naked hooks and waited for that first cod of the season, Charlie came up on a fish and winched a ling to the surface. I took a nice blackfish and a ling. Minutes passed by and then artie went into action.

I picked up the gaff and soon we had a nice eight pound cod on deck. "First cod of the season, fellers," said Artie, his smile as broad as the horizon. "Let's get 'em!"

But our hope of more action was short-lived. A half-hour passed and after only a few more blackfish and ling, we began to believe Artie's cod was the only cod on the wreck.

We decided to make a move to the C.O.D. Wreck. We found no cod, but quite a few ling kept us busy. We left; ling can be a lot of fun, but they aren't cod.

"Well," Artie said to me as we were coming up on the anchor, "we've got a choice. We can try the Cholera Bank or we can work our way back inshore. I've got a hunch these fish are closer to the beach...but as long as we're so near Cholera, maybe we should give it a try."

When we arrived there, we found a half-dozen party boats anchored in one area, but there didn't seem to be any cod action. We soon found out why: the bottom was saturated with horned dogfish.

Once again we were on our way. This time we headed inshore with the intention of drifting over a favorite piece of broken skimmer bottom located off Long Beach, south of the McAllister Ground.

Artie slowed, glanced at his home-made chart of the area, and then stopped the engine. "If we get into fish, we'll drop a buoy and drift around it."

A half-hour passed and while the final stage of an outgoing tide and lack of wind gave us the right drift speed, it didn't do us a bit of good.

"I can't understand it," Charlie Hall grumbled. "The cod should be here."

Artie agreed. "Of course they should. They were here this time last year, and the year before that. But who knows what fish will do. Just give it awhile. If they're here, they'll come. Patience, boy. Patience."

The chatter between my two buddies made me realize for the umpteenth time just what knowledge codfishing party boat skippers must possess in order to keep their patrons happy. Theirs had to be a labor of love. Here we were, three well-experienced codfishmen enjoying ideal fishing conditions and yet all we had was one cod on board.

About ten minutes later Artie's prediction came true. Charlie's rod took on a set only a cod can make. He gave the fish its head. "Come to papa. Feels like a good one, fellers."

I quickly reeled in, tossed the buoy overboard, and picked up the gaff. I could see the cod coming up through the depths and could hear Charlie's labored breathing. "Nice one," I told him. "Keep his head up."

As I stuck the gaff into a cod of about 15 pounds, I heard Artie grunt. "Here's another."

A few minutes later I dumped a cod of about 12 pounds at his feet. "I told you they'd come," he said, as he removed the hook and dropped the fish into our plastic bucket. "With cod, you've got to have patience."

We continued our drift. Now all good-natured chatter ceased as we concentrated on putting more cod on board. The drift was long, but only a small dogfish rewarded our efforts. Then, as a moderate west wind came up on the tide-change, we began to drift too fast for good fishing.

Artie started the engine. "We'll drift down on the buoy and anchor close by," he said. "Break out the chum, Matt. Maybe we'll do ourselves some good."

We returned to the area that had given us our action and drifted quietly to the buoy. Charlie carefully lowered the anchor and let out enough scope to bring us close by. Then Artie secured the anchor with a burst of reverse. This drifting and anchoring method can make or break your day. Cod tend to be spooky. Not everyday, perhaps, for there are times when it seems an underwater blast would do no harm, but the quiet codfisherman always stands a better chance.

After we were certain we would remain in position, Charlie and I began to bat skimmers overboard, stopping when we had used about two dozen. We then picked up our rods and began to fish. It didn't take long before I felt several good, solid tugs. I set the hook into my first cod of the

season.

As the cod pumped, I had the usual doubts and fears about my terminal tackle. Would it take the strain? This felt like a pretty good fish. Did I snell that hook properly? Did I remember to cut back the last few feet of line before I rigged up? All these things went through my mind (they always do.) But I needn't have worried. As the cod thrashed on the surface, Artie deftly put the gaff in and swung the fish aboard. Nearly 20 pounds of husky cod lay at my feet.

We continued to fish, using chum cautiously. Every few minutes one of us would bat over a few more skimmers, just enough to keep the cod on the prowl for more. In an hour's time, with seven more cod on board, the horned dogfish moved in and that ended the codfishing.

We had taken nine cod from six to nearly 20 pounds—not world-shaking, I'll admit—but all in all, it wasn't too bad for the first trip of the season. There'd be more trips and, of course, more cod. Once again we'd opened the seasonal codfish door and the prospects of a whole winter's codfishing lay before us.

Charlie Hall put it all in a nutshell as we were seated beside each other filleting our catch. "You know, Matt, there's nothing like these first cod of the season."

You bet, Charlie!

Now I have a confession to make. (Got to keep it honest, you know.) The tale you've just read is a composite of several trips. Each incident did happen, but not on any one particular day. I have purposely written the story in this manner so that you may be aware of the knowledge a cod hunter must possess in order to be successful. (I have also included some useful cod pointers.) You cannot simply go out there and catch cod as we did without knowing the fish and the methods used in its capture. Of course, if you're going party boat fishing for cod, all bets are off—all you're going to need then are the basics. The skipper will put you over the fish; the rest is up to you.

But for those fellows with a yen for codfishing on their own who would rather try it with a couple of buddies, let me say that two important requirements are necessary: a seaworthy boat, which means one large enough to take the unpredictable ocean; and, the knowledge needed to read those weather signs which portend the possibility of that ever-present danger lurking in the foreground (the winter ocean is no place for the uninitiated). To fellows meeting these necessary requirements, I can say that the cod is the one fish they'll certainly enjoy catching.

Why is this so? What makes a dyed-in-the-wool codfisherman anxious to leave the comforts of a warm home in the middle of a colder than cold night? What makes him risk possible frostbite, dangerous seas and all the assorted discomforts which go with it? Search me. I don't know—and I've been codfishing over 50 years! And with but few exceptions, enjoying every minute of it. As I mentioned before, there's no fisherman quite like a winter codfisherman. I sometimes think we fellows are a little daft.

Cod provide the average bottom fisherman with a good chance to score with relatively large fish.

Maybe it's the realities of a fisherman's life. Let's face it. If you fish for flounder, how many three pounders do you catch? Not too many. Right? The same holds true for porgies, sea bass, and most other bottom feeding fish. It isn't their fault. They just don't grow very large. Period. Perhaps you'll catch an occasional fluke or blackfish over six pounds, and you might fish for years before you catch a striper over 20 pounds, or a weakfish over eight. Even blues over 12 pounds are not too common, except at certain times.

The only consistently **big** fish caught regularly by the average sinker bouncer is the cod. Here is a fish rarely thought of as small. Sure, small cod are caught from time to time, but these fish are the exception to the rule. During the codfish season now upon us, many 30 to 50 pounders come over the rail; your chance of getting one is fair to middling. I must tell you, though, that the average cod caught in the New York Bight weighs 8 to 10 pounds. (I don't want you to go out there all charged-up and blame the old man for the lack of 50 pounders.)

If you're interested in this winter's codfishing, here's how to go about it.

First: tackle. Forget about using spinning equipment of any type. I suppose I shouldn't even mention something so obvious, but I've been on party boats where such tackle was used for codfishing. Needless to say, those fellows caught no cod. Yes, they occasionally hooked cod, but never raised them to within gaffing Distance.

Most times you'll be fishing in deep water and strong currents. The sinkers necessary to hold bottom will range from eight to twelve ounces, perhaps more during full and new moon periods; no spinning tackle is made for this type of rugged fishing. If you insist upon using it, stay away from party boats. You'll only incur the wrath of your neighbor at the rail.

Use a rod with a generous amount of backbone. As an example of what is meant, many years ago I used a converted hickory billiard cue for all my codfishing. Maybe it wasn't as sporting as rods in use today, but that "stick" surely did the trick. It took a mighty hefty cod to put a set in that rod!

Match your conventional rod with a conventional reel—one capable of holding at least 150 yards of 30 or 40 pound test good quality monofilament. You'll find a star drag helpful (if you set it properly); but don't forget we old-timers used wooden

(Continued on next page.)

sidewinder reels—no drag setting on those, but we still caught our cod. What matters is that you don't lose your head when that big fish starts pumping. That's when you are most likely to tighten down on your drag. Don't do it! If that fish is large enough to peel line off the reel—let it. This will tire it more quickly than anything else.

Cod grow to very large size. The record weighed 211¼ pounds—which must have been some cod! Another weighed 185 pounds—dressed! This one probably exceeded that 211¼ pounder. But these were commercially-caught fish, taken via set-line 'way back in the late 1800s, so don't get too carried away at any such possibility.

Now, to attain such weights, cod must have the appetite to go with it. And they certainly do! Anything small enough to fit into that cavernous mouth is considered fair game. All of which makes it easy for the fisherman to select the proper bait.

Although the old-time commercial set-liner used herring chunks for bait, most sport fishermen use skimmer clam. Other baits such as squid strips, live bergalls, bergall strips, conch, and the like will produce at times (I once saw cod caught on chicken heads!), but I think your best bet is skimmer. And here it becomes a little ticklish. My experience has shown that half a skimmer, or one-third of a large one, will produce better for you than if you were to place one or more whole skimmers on your hook. Don't be fooled by that bucket mouth!

How to rig your terminal tackle is one of the most important requisites towards achieving good results, be it cod or flounder fishing. As with anything else, there's a right and a wrong way to do it—knowing how separates the men from the boys, so to speak. There is really nothing difficult about it—rigging for all bottom fish is the simplest kind, but if you don't understand why and how it is done for various fish, you are bound to do poorly.

While cod are not truly a bottom-hugging fish, as are the flounder, for instance (cod feed at various depths), this is where you will do your fishing. And because cod often swim high, your top hook (a 5/0 or 6/0 Sproat) should be tied in about three-and-a-half feet above the sinker. The lower hook (if you decide to use one) should be placed about four inches above the sinker. This is the hook which will reap available ling for you. That top hook, besides catching cod, will also nail any cruising pollack. Some fishermen dispense with the lower hook and concentrate solely on cod. The choice is yours.

When making up their rigs, some fishermen rely on three-way swivels. I'm not all that enthused. Remember the general rule in all bottom fishing: the more hardware you lower to the bottom, the fewer fish you may get. A cod may be bold, but there are times when it does indeed become line shy. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Always be alert. No gazing off into the distance, or thinking about tomorrow's work. You're out there to catch cod—so pay strict attention to what's going on down there on the floor of our mysterious sea.

I've had occasions when cod hit my skimmer so hard they almost ripped the rod from my hands; but most times I was unaware that I had one at the bait. These are the fish which are seldom lost simply because they've had time to get that bait deep inside the mouth. Strike hard when you feel weight. No half-hearted attempts. A cod's jaw is leather-like and you've got to sink that hook. (Another plus for conventional tackle.)

Now, if you've been reading codfishing articles over the years, I'm sure you've come across a writer or two who told you cod don't fight. (Usually this is written by some guy who never in his life caught a cod and is going only by hearsay from disgruntled fishermen who also never caught a cod, world without end.) Don't you believe it! Not one word! Maybe these disgruntled guys expected acrobatics put on by bluefish, or swordfish, or something. But I'll tell you something: I've never seen a fisherman hooked into a cod take time out to light his pipe. That cod will make you earn him—every inch of the way. You may feel winter's chill when you set the hook, but you'll work up a sweat before the gaff is in and the cod is on the deck. This I guarantee you.

Most of our New York Bight codfishing is done from early November until late March. This means you should dress properly. Never mind how mild it is on shore—that winter ocean is c-o-l-d! Be prepared by dressing sensibly. If you avail yourself of insulated clothing, insulated gloves and boots, you will be comfortable enough. The secret is not to overdo. Too much clothing will cause you to perspire—and perspiration brings chill. There are many beautiful winter days, sun aglow with promise, wind but a whisper. Select one and go out and enjoy yourself.

True, winter fishing is rugged, but so are boats, the tackle and everything else that goes with it. But most rugged of all are those **big** rugged codfish.

Now, I ask you—knowing all this, how can you stay in that nice, warm house?

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BY FRED GUARDINEER

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8" 7/0 HOOK 4' FROM BOTTOM

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3 FT.

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END LOOP

10 OZ. SINKER

JIGS, BAITED OR UNBAITED WILL ALSO TAKE COD OR THEIR COMPANIONS SUCH AS WHITING OR POLLOCK.

East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Captain John Potts of the **Bluefin Charter Fleet** passed on the word that Tuesday's trip for the Zebrowski group scored with 18 bass to 30 lbs. and some blues. Wednesday's trip saw 5 bass and some blues taken, at which time th e boat boogied over to Southwest Ledge and there hoisted over 400 lbs. of blackfish on green crab, fish running 8 to 10 lbs. On Saturday, the Ryan group of Bridgehampton totalled 3 stripers taken at the light and then it was over to Southwest Ledge where they had 25 giant blacks from 8 to 10 lbs. again plus a 28 lb. cod. The skipper says the fishing is so good he'll be sailing through the Thanksgiving weekend and still has several of these days open.

Captain Wayne King of the charter boat **King Wayne** ended his last trip of the season with a roar Sunday for the AT&T Longlines group, Garden City with 100 cod to 25 lbs. and 55 bla blackfish to 25 lbs. Pool winner was Bob Matasukie with the 25 lber. Action was at Southwest Ledge. Fish averaged 10 to 12 lbs. and several in the 20s were hoisted, all green cod. Fishing was done with clam and green crabs and the cod were filled with sand eels. Wayne thanks all his customers who sailed with him this year, helping make it a successful season and looks forward to seeing them again next year.

Captain Paul Forsberg's **Viking Fleet** enjoyed very good cod and blackfishing Saturday and Sunday at Southwest Ledge with fish averaging 6-12 lbs. to the tune of up to a dozen fish per man. Pools have been running in the 25 lb. class each day the boat got out.

Drew Rigano umbrellaed a 41 lb.

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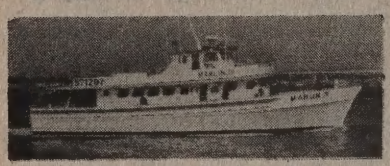

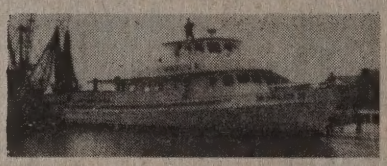

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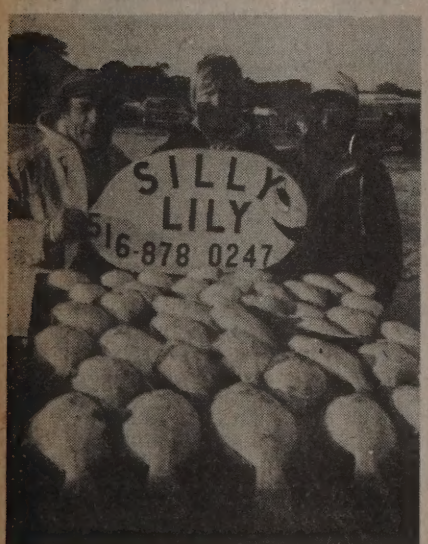
striped bass at the Elbow aboard his dad's charter boat **Lori-Jay** on Saturday morning. The fish hit a white tube.

SOUTH FORK

Captain Artie Lach of the **Sag Harbor** open boat **Wilhelric II** says the blackfishing is so absolutely fantastic that he is stretching the season to one more full weekend and will be sailing his last trips Nov. 27 and 28. Blackfish Ridge and the north end of Little Gull Island have been giving unbelievable results. Charlie Zawalich, Sag Harbor had 23 blackfish to 9½ lbs. and lost the pool. Stret Whiting, Glen Head on Sunday hoisted 2 blacks in the 12 lb. class and tied for the pool with Charlie Dickson of New Jersey. An estimated 500 plus blacks were caught Saturday and the same for Sunday. Artie says 10 lbers. don't have a chance in the pool. Sunday's trip will also be celebrating the skipper's 40th birthday with lots of refreshments served on the boat.

Over in **Southampton, Speck's Bait and Tackle** reports good flounder activity in Heddy Creek and the Basket in the Shinnecock area with a few 2 lbers. brought in during the week. Flood tide has been best. 80 flatties were the reward for a group of three anglers from the city with fish of 3/4 lbs. and up taken from the Creek on the flood. Worms and clams have been the hook bait.



Arnold Alfonsi and Bob and Bill Grunseich with a nice catch of big flatties from Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station in E. Moriches.

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

While both flounder and cod remain on the menu of South Shore anglers, there was minimal effort in these departments despite the mild temperatures of recent days. A big ground swell deterred many cod fans while fog on the inshore bays kept most flounder fans at bay.

From **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Paul Graniello said that flounder fishing in his area remains pretty good although few people are making the effort to catch the flatties. The Blue Point and Patchogue docks continue to produce some flounder locally while boatmen working between Bellport and Heckscher have made some decent scores with nice size fish. The best flounder catch that Paul checked over the weekend came from Cedar Beach on the North Shore where two customers worked out of a row boat to take 40 good size flatties on bloodworms.

Rod DiGiacomo of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** spoke of a few flounder off Heckscher and some respectable trout being taken out of Connetquot but overall, the whole fishing scene has been pretty quiet as interest seems to be winding down rapidly.

Over at **Captree**, reports from **The Bait Station** indicate that the fishing piers at Captree as well as Jones Beach have been very quiet at late with not very much doing on the flatties. Open boats on the cod run were hindered by a big heave and the easterly blow over the past few days but most captains expect that the action will pick up again as soon as the seas lay down. A good indication may be the fishing aboard Capt. Speedy Hubert's **Speedy VI** on Sunday. The skipper reported a slow day until a late afternoon flurry

Frank and Sal Esposito, Joe Micari, Tony Edwards and John Raffaele did a tremendous job on Moriches flounder as evidenced by this photo. Total for their day's efforts was an unheard of 400 flatties. Fishing was done out of L&M Marine Fishing Station on 10-26-82.

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resulted in most of a 60 fish catch being taken with quite a few in the teen size class. This was a marked improvement to Friday and Saturday's fishing and Speedy felt that the diminshing ground swell was a factor. He also reminded that both boats will be sailing on Thanksgiving Day and should be returning to the dock around 2PM, in time for turkey dinner. All boats are still working on wrecks as the open bottom action has been slow to get going due to higher than normal water temperatures for this time of the year.

Ski Kochanski of **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** said that boatmen continue to pick away at good size flounder in several areas of the bay. The Lindenhurst Cut, Bay Shore flats and the bottom off of Good Samaritan Hospital had been producing a fair number of fish from 1 pound on up. The private boat Jen-Jack finished up with 19 of the big flatties on Sunday after taking 14 flatties on Friday. The key to a respectable catch according to Ski is giving the bottom a good working over with clam tongs or a plunger. Ski reminded the shop will stop bloodworms into December for those still looking to put some flounder fillets in the freezer. The only codfish news that Ski had to report was a 38 pounder taken aboard teh Wet Dream in the vicinity of the NA buoy on open bottom.

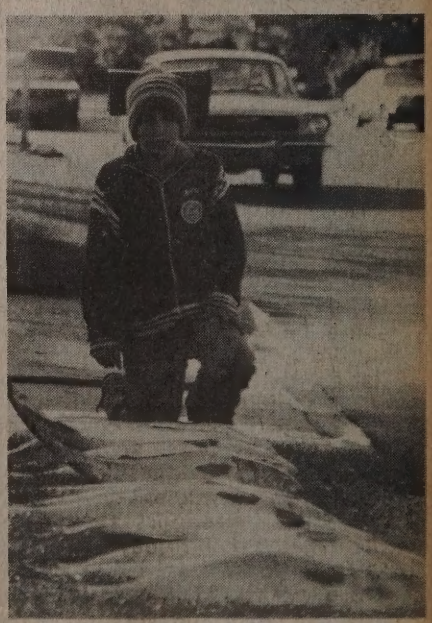
According to Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in **Seaford**, the usual deep water spots such as Four Corners and the Third Bridge are still producing some good flounder fishing but Lon noted, few guys have been out fishing. Worms and clams along with clam chum have been taking the flatties. Lon had some second hand reports of cod being taken on wrecks but heard of no fish caught on open bottom this week.

Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

Starting with the boats out of **Freeport**, we learn from the **Capt. Lou Fleet** that flounder have been picky this past week due to tide conditions. As a result, Tuesday and Wednesday the boat went after blackfish in the afternoon out to the Stone Barge and had a good catch of blackfish. On Thursday the skipper put his passengers onto cod and blackfish on an inshore wreck. They had 18 cod to 20 lbs. and blacks to 7 lbs. It was flounder Saturday for John DeRose, a regular, with 40 keeper fish. John was back Sunday, this time with 115 fish, whittled down to 71 keepers. The **CL III** will be making some cod/ling/whiting/blackfish trips soon. Call the



Twelve-year-old Doug Busch from Hauppauge and the 13 big blues he caught aboard the Captree open boat "Speedy VI."

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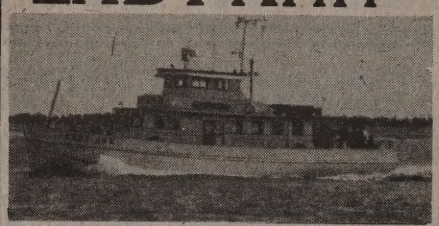

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skipper for exact info. The **CL IV** is now sailing weekends only.

The word from the **Capt. Al** is that Tuesday's pool fish was a 42½ lb. cod for North Babylon angler Bill Litzner. On Wednesday's trip Valley Stream angler Tom Bonura had a 42 lb. and a 28 lb. cod. Tom Venerose, Brooklyn, took the pool with a 35 lber., as Bonura had not entered the pool. Saturday's trip saw Ralph Rivera hoist a 53½ lb. cod. Ralph traveled from Bay Ridge, Bklyn. to catch this cow. George Barbeto and Phil Barberi both hooked into one 47½ lb. cod. Sunday was the toughest day of the week with a gigantic roll on.

The **Miss Freeport II** will be switching to cod on Friday with a 5:30 AM sailing time.

Captain Dick Hall on the **Super Spray II** told of the very good cod catches through Saturday with Thursday's high hook being 10 cod for Fred Udescor of Montauk. Saturday's high hook was 6 cod including a 30 lber. for John Robissa, Hempstead. Pool fish have been in the 40s everyday. On Wednesday's trip Tony Froitzheim was high hook with 11 cod. The boat has been fishing wrecks and blacks and sea bass have been mixed in as well.

Captain Sy Karlin's **Blue Fin Fleet**

Ricky Verga and Greg Nisito (Shakespeare Tackle Rep) along with a few friends and a load of big blues in late October at 17 Fathoms aboard the 'Nan-Sea.'

on Saturday had a bluefish charter and large blues in the 10-12 lb. range were caught south of the inlet fishing dead on the bottom with bait. There were also plenty of doggies. Since cod are now moving closer to shore with the cold water, all remaining 82 trips will be for cod and it looks like the very strong cod season is holding.

Down in **Point Lookout,** Captain Walt Specht of the **Miss Point Lookout** told of decent flounder catches during the week on the flood tide with catches running anywhere from 8-27 per man, mixed sizes. The weekend was picky with lots of drops needed and fish hitting ever so lightly. Saturday's morning trip had roughly 100 good fish taken. Sunday morning's high hook was 10 flatties. There was a big roll on the outside Sunday which brought dirty, murky water inside on the flood. Walt asked us to remind you about Friday's cod trip which sails at 4AM. See ad for details.

Captain Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** had his last cod trip

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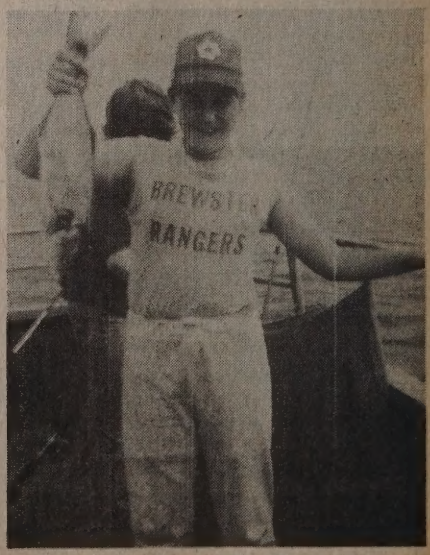

Ron Fries shows his first bluefish ever. The young Brewster, N.Y. angler was fishing aboard the Freeport, "Capt Al."

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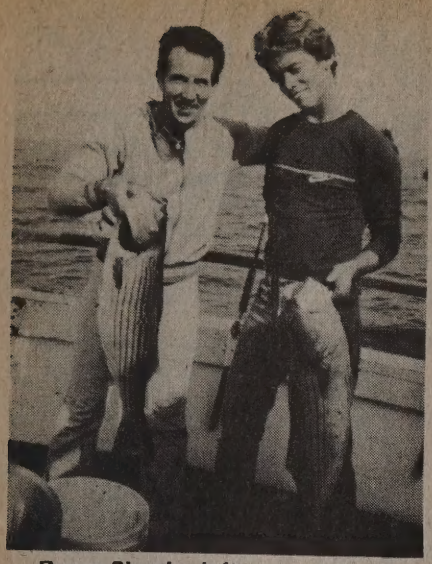

Bruce Simels, left, gets a hand from mate Henry Feeny displaying bass of 17 and a pool winning 20 pounds. They were taken on Nov. 6 aboard the Gerritsen Beach open boat, "Elsie K III."

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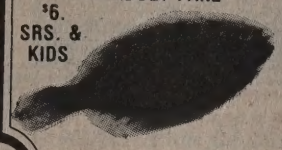

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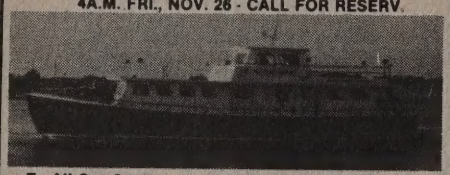

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Free Bait, Tackle, Ice, Jigs

weathered out but two more trips are scheduled for December 11 and 19, reservations necessary.

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** tells of some flounder activity in the flats west of the Point Lookout bridge with fish of nice size. Good action has also been around buoys 16 and 18 in Reynolds. A few blackfish still being picked at the bridges but most blackfish activity is on the outside wrecks. Bluefish still being trolled off Lido Beach on umbrellas.

Long Beach Sports Marina advises that Rudy Valentine fishing all by his lonesome on Thursday rang the bell with 35 flounder, ten of which were between 2-2½ lbs. off the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. Rudy chummed heavily with mussels and used bloodworms as hook bait. Cement Block has also been productive. School bass being trolled and jigged.

Beckman's Tackle in **Lynbrook** advised that the creek mouths in Reynolds Channel have been the best areas for flounder this past week for anglers with plenty of chum. Best spots for blackfish have been wrecks and inlet jetty rocks.

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the **Atlantic Beach** charter boat **Kim** tells of excellent bass fishing , mainly schoolies in the New York Bight. His charters are averaging 20 stripers a trip on umbrellas and diamond jigs. Big blues are still around mainly off Highlands. Ron has finished up his chartering for the season and is now accepting charters for '83.

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station in Atlantic Beach** says that in front of the parachute jump at Coney Island lots of school bass 3-7 lbs. are being umbrellaed. Best flounder of the week have been from Duck Point and the creeks at Cedarhurst Yacht club on worms. In this weekend's Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club cod contest top man was Nick Schiraldi fishing on the Mirage, who took a 37 lb. 2 oz. cod

NEW YORK BIGHT

Flounder are great right now said **Skippy's Bait and Tackle**, with the fish big and spawned out. Reynolds has been best from the railroad trestle to Cedarhurst Yacht Club. Steve Noble had 31 fish. Lots of males and a lot over 2½ lbs., largest flounder of recent days 3 lbs. 6 oz. Numbers of fish have increased greatly these last few days and this is another example of the late season we are experiencing this year on Long Island. Water temps in the bay are still in the 50s. Both tides are producing and catches of 8 to a dozen flounder a man can be expected if its worked at. Best blackfishing is at offshore wrecks and the shop continues to carry all flounder bait and chum.

To the west in **Sheepshead Bay**, skipper Walt Weigand of the **Flamingo III** advises that the striper fishing from his open boat has been decent all week long. Early in the week fish were running 4-10 lbs. average and a little smaller later in the week. Friday, four fares totalled 45 bass. Monday of this week, the boat was into bass right off the bat in the morning, as these reports were being taken. Fish are hitting Nordic Eels, Ava 27s and Vikies. Monday's fish appeared to be a new run of larger fish with a lot going 10 to 15 lbs. Really a decent striper season, said Walt who will continue after bass at least through this weekend, weather permitting.

Captain Tom of the **Elsie K III** called to tell of super striper catches all week with the best being Saturday with over 100 striped bass caught for 14 fares. Sunday's total was over 60 stripers for 12 men. These fish are 3-15 lbs. and are hitting red and white Nordic Eels. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday one hour of the fishing day will be devoted to seeking out the 40 and 50 lb. cow bass that are around. Sunday will be the last striper trip, after which time Tom will be switching to whiting and cod. Watch ad for details.

The **Zephyr** reported a decent flounder catch Wednesday with action lower on Saturday, but picking up again on Sunday. The boat has been working local flounder areas and catches should increase as the water continues to cool.

Over in **Staten Island**, Kevin at **Santo's Sport Shop** told us the best bet this past week was flounder at Stapleton Piers, 12, 17 and 18, fish to

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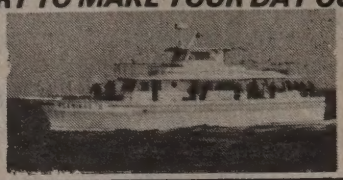

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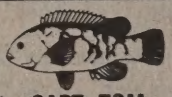
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3/4 lbs. Best blackfish catches have been off Home Dock, the Stapleton Piers and the Princess Bay rock piles.

North Shore Report

by Marty Garrell

Northeast winds seemed to put at least a temporary end to torrid bass fishing in the mid Sound area, and blackfish are only being taken in deeper water now with a marked reduction in tautog activity as well. Flounder action remains good in most spots.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun & Tackle tells us that John Palmieri himself will be upstate after big game on the weekends but that the store is still open and has worms for flounder pounders.

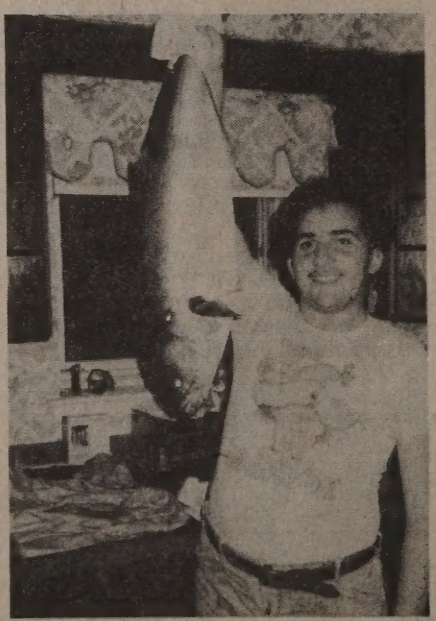
Jack's on City Island is still supplying green and fiddler crabs as well as worms. Jack Rumpf sees a lot of flounder and some tomcod in deeper waters. Harts and High Island along sandy beaches are best for small boaters while shore anglers are taking some fish in the Lagoon and off Orchard Beach. Blackfish are in water depths approaching 60' and the party boats are working them all the way to Norwalk with a reduction in action noticeable.

The **Glen Cove Sport Shop** saw a lot of bass activity early in the week on fish less than 4 lbs. Jigs and wire-lined umbrellas were producing catches of 20-40 fish for boat anglers. Flounder fishing is excellent in Dosoris Pond, and Dave sold 12 dozen worms on Sunday.

On the party boat scene, Pete Pearson said that the **Klondike VIII** out of New Rochelle had a few bass on Sunday off Lloyd's and picked at the blackfish off the Stanford and Norwalk reefs. Tautog were in 45-70' of water. Pete is hoping that the ocean will pick up and give the boat a shot at open bottom cod or whiting before long.

Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** from City Island told us that Saturday's catching was slow on the northeast wind, but that he had a better Sunday in 80' of water with fish averaging 4 lbs., and 5-10 tautog per rod the norm. The blacks seem to be getting picky, and Dom figures he'll have only another week on them. He may do some flounder fishing next weekend which will be the last of the season.

Joe Fink said that the **Lady Lil III** out of Glen Cove experienced tough fishing on the weekend, although Saturday's high hook was 16 tautog. Joe may head for Norwalk next week. He feels it's essential now to use green crabs in small bait sizes with 1/4 crabs on the large ones and top shells pulled off.



Eric Kohlmeier seems especially satisfied with his monster blue of 17 lbs. taken aboard the Sheepshead Bay open boat, "Helen H."

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Reports from **Huntington Prop, 4 Winds** and **Ronnie's** put bass off the Obstruction Buoy and northwest of Buoy 13 early in the week. There were plenty of fish to 10 lbs. for jig fishermen as well as umbrella trollers. Best jigs were still bare hooked AVA 007s, 17s and 2 oz. Tiger Stripes. Jerry and Bob Cedar each had a 14 lb. blue mixed in with the bass on Tuesday. Some 3-4 lb. blackfish were still off 11B. Harbor flounder abound, too, and all stations have worms.

Twelve-year-old Chris Wrobleski shows off his first weakfish, taken in Long Island Sound aboard the "Prowler" on an Ava jig.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in Northport advised fishing for the bass off Eaton's early in the mornings and said that everybody had fish on Friday. The warm water discharge off Northport is also holding bass with a few big blues ready to blow light tackle anglers away.

Dick Brown at **Dick's** in Mount Sinai noted that there are a lot of flounder in Stony Brook Harbor, also Port Jeff and Mount Sinai. Dick suggests that those anglers who cannot find worms dig some mussels. **Ralph's Fishing Station** in Mount Sinai expects to have worms for another week. Ralph Davenport said that trollers were mystified by the disappearance of the bass on Sunday morning, even with water temperatures above 50° F.

Packy Collins reported in detail on several charters last week with the **Packy IV.** Bass were good sized through Thursday with high catches of 80 fish on jigs. By Saturday things had gotten rough, with only six shorts in the catch in the first few hours. One keeper in four fish was the rule for the sharpies who worked through the day in the sloppy northeast, and the daybreak tide had only bluefish. Sunday's results off Eaton's were not very good. If the fishing comes back, Collins expects to have a few more charters this week.

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(Continued on page 34.)

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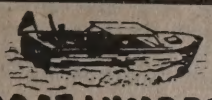

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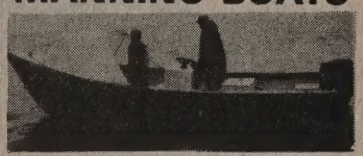
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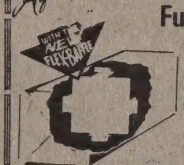
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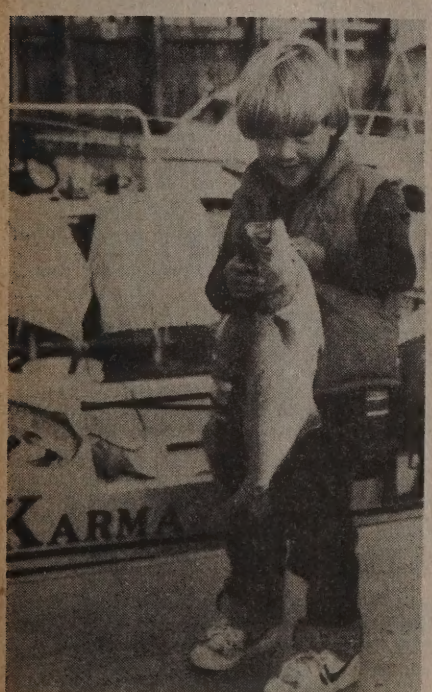

Four-year-old Eric Isban grips his first bluefish. It was taken on an Ava Jig in Long Island Sound aboard the family boat, Karma. Subscriber photo.

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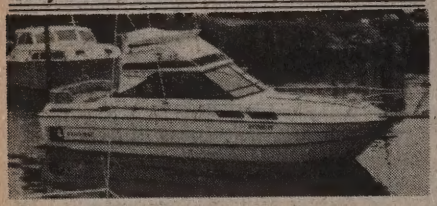

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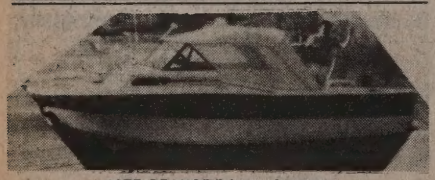

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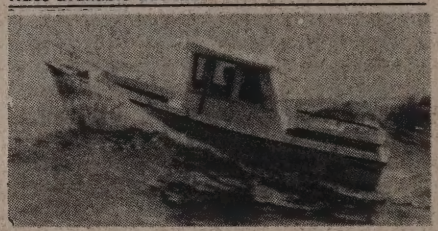
19' GRADY WHITE w/cuddy. 115 h.p. Evinrude. Loaded w/extras. Now docked in Westhampton. Excl. cond. After 6PM. 212-532-2401. $4900.

FOR SALE: 1978 MAKO 21 & Evinrude 200. Boat has fuel-saving Bennett trim tabs, standing post, some canvas, bilge pump. V bottom provides smooth ride thru big seas. Full elec. optional. Motor fitted w/ new power head this year. Call Al Ristori, 201-334-8059 or leave message at Star Island Yacht Club, Montauk, 516-668-5052. Demo rides available this fall.



SHAMROCK KEEL DRIVE—20' & new 26' gas or diesel; 3 models. Also Mako & Cruiser, Inc. Demo avail. Used 20' diesel, $13,995. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400; 516-728-0922.

1977 SPARTAN Galv. tandem 21 boat trailer, 3500 lb. capacity, 812C power winch, bearing buddies. $1000. 516-724-1702.

1976 26' WASQUE 250 h.p. Chrysler. Dual controls; C-Loran w/remote, digital & Si-Tex recorders, CB & VHF radios, soft top w/drop curtain & rear cover. Spare prop, outriggers, salt-water washdown. 516-668-3414; 212-767-0646.

1981 REGAL 24' Sportfisherman. Cuddy cabin, Bimini top, 4 cyl. 170 h.p. Merc I/O, VHF, CB, Si-Tex Recorder. Trailer. Low hrs. Many, many more extras. $12,300 Firm. Like New. Call Hugh Chancey, 516-368-2213.

SEA OX on the North Shore: 17', 20', 23', Walk-around Cabin & Center Console. Also commercial. Good value; great ride. GLEN COVE MARINA, INC., 76 Shore Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542; 516-676-1377.

23' MAC KENZIE Bass Boat, 225 FWC Chrysler, low hrs. Excl. cond. Must be seen. Extras. Asking $5500. Eves & Wknds: 516-728-3223.

19' SPORTCRAFT Cuddy, F/G. Combines comfort & lrg. uncluttered cockpit for fishing. Good cond. Complete w/65 h.p. Evinrude in excl. cond. Very economical rig. Compass, CB, chart/flasher, trailer. $3900. 516-223-6135; 516-868-2391.

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1980 OCEAN Yachts 42, 6-71 tis, loaded, full elec.; lo hrs; immaculate. $189,500
1981 Robalo 25 w/twin 150 Mercs. SS props, T-top, canvas, elec. trailer, $25,000
1980 Topaz 28 cuddy, twin diesel, tower, radar, etc. $59,500
1961 36' Egg Harbor SF, twin diesel, radar, etc. Fully overhauled engines & hull. $25,900.
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1979 28' Performer, custom center console, T-top, twin Renault diesels. $34,900
1976 Topaz, 28 center console, twin 233, tower, etc. $25,900.
1976 Topaz, 28 center console, twin 225 Mercs., tower, etc. $25,900
1982 Custom Grover 28 loaded, teak deck, radar, Loran, etc.; single diesel, $56,000.
Financing available. ATLANTIC SPORTFISHING, 201-899-1800.

AQUASPORT 17'-28'. Exclusive L.I. Dealers. STRONG'S MARINELAND, Rt. 25, Mattituck; 516-298-4020. Long Beach Marineland, Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

EVINRUDE MOTORS—Price us last! 4hp, $395; 35hp-$1250; 150hp, $3590, etc. Engine & boat storage also avail. AL GROVER'S, 516-FR 8-0510.

25' Chris Craft 1974 center conole twin 140s, VHF, Loran C-$14,000; 26' Bonito 1970 single 350 Ford 1980-$11,000; 35' Bruno & Stillman 1981, single 3208 T. Loaded-$90,000; 19' Glastron 1979 195XL Bowrider, single 305 w/trir-$9000. 26' Bonito 1972 w/1983 30 Merc. FWC, tuna tower, Loran C, VHF recorder-$37,500. DAWN STAR YACHT Brokerage at Montauk Marine Basin, 516-668-5900.

51' HEAD/Charter Boat: 6-71 Detroit, radar, recorder, VHF, heat, CG Cert. 42 + 2. Very clean & well equipped. $25,000. 516-731-2108.

EVINRUDE

NEW 1982 EVINRUDES 1982
2-$290; 4-$438; 4.5-$560; 7.5-$690; 9.9-$882; 15-$980; 25-$1160; 35-$1310; 40-$1400; 50-$1600; 55-$1828; 60-$2100; 70-$2295; 90-$2700; 115-$2840; 140-$3425; 150-$3650; 175-$3900; 200-$3975; 235-$4200. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

1977 21' Mackie cuddy cabin. Sleeps 2; 198 h.p. Merc. I/O, power trim, VHF, CB, depth recorder, 51 gal. tank, CG pkg. Full canvas, dual batt., 3-way switch w/lock & more. $7500. With E-Z Loader Trailer $8500. Ready to go. 212-639-6135 Eves.

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Mercruiser I/O. AUTHORIZED PARTS & SERVICE. Winterization & storage special w/this ad. New: 80-$2595; 48w-$1700; 40-$1300; 30-$1275; 9.9-$850; 5-$550. BAYHEAD MARINA, 212-525-5724, Rosedale, Qns, NY

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1982 Aquasport w/walkaround cuddy. 235 Evinrude. Less than 40 hrs. Many extras. Real Steal. 212-327-1627/2293.

1979 30' SISU w/1981 200 h.p. Perkins. Less than 400 hrs. Set-up for sport fishing; 2 station steering, fighting chair, gin pole, outriggers, rod racks, etc. Full electronics. Make offer. Conn. 1-203-838-0503

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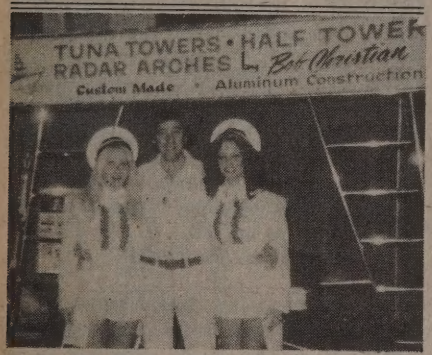
WANTED: Propane Marine Stove. Prefer Homestrand flush mount #219. Sell: Bronze props, 3 blades—18x19L, 16x18R - $50 each. Pair 5 blade 16½x16 - $75. All 1¼ shaft. Excl. or reconditioned. 516-226-8007.

FISHERMAN'S Electronic Package: Telesonar - 0' to 2600' depth & fish recorder. Extra 6" paper rolls. Gemtronics VHS, Regency CB; Hi-Gain hand-held VHF. $550. Sal. After 4PM. 516-842-2345.



TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Anodized aluminum construction; welded joints. Delivered & fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free estimates. Also self-inflating life rafts. Call Bob Christian, Eves: 516-979-9193.

Over 50% Discount on FURUNO Loran C receivers. Big savings on Furuno & Raytheon Radars. Quantities limited. Sale ends when local stock is depleted. SEAWAY COMMUNICATIONS, INC., Lindenhurst, NY; 957-7171.

DID YOU KNOW that besides a full selection of chart recorder paper, jiffy service, & whatever you need to keep you going during this late in the season, we also carry commercial-grade Swedish foul weather gear? Always something brewing—coffee included—at HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Hwy, Islip. 516-581-0194.

LORAN DEAL—LIMITED TIME ONLY

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Winter Canvases up to 50% off. Winter storage from $6.50 a foot 19'-28'. 519 BOAT YARD, Copiague; 516-789-8789.

100% Stainless steel marine products: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpit. Custom & standard products avail. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave & Hwy. #35, Neptune City, NJ 07753; 201-988-8818. Send $2.25 for complete catalog.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., INC., 87 Arlington Ave., St. James, NY 11780; 516-265-3036.

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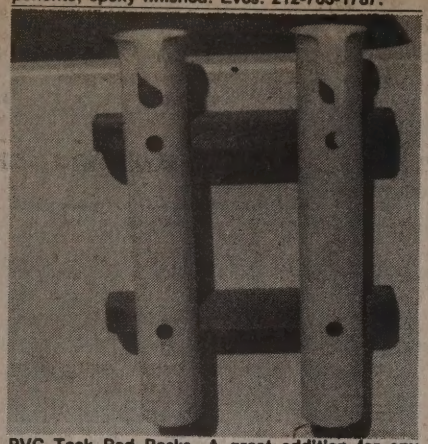
FREE CATALOG. Fine fishing tackle at low, low prices. Write to: WEST FALMOUTH TACKLE, Box 690E, West Falmouth, MA 02574.

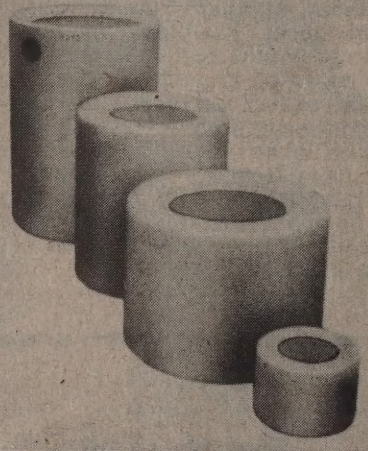
BUCKO'S Parts & Service Center. We carry parts for Daiwa, Kencor, Olympic, Newell, Ryobi, Penn, Shimano, Zebco, Quick, Mitchell. To order, call 617-674-7900, or write: P.O. Box 87, Fall River, Mass. 02724.

CUSTOM RODS

Double-wrapped. Perfect gift for holidays. Freshwater, saltwater, fiberglass, graphite. Finest components, epoxy finished. Eves: 212-763-1787.



PVC Teak Rod Racks. A great addition for any fishing boat, keeps rods ready & tangle free. All components are of highest quality featuring heavy duty 1/4-20 stainless steel fasterners. Satisfaction guaranteed. 1 rod-$5; 2 rods-$9; 3 rods-$14.50; 4 rods-$17.50; 5 rods-$21. Add $2 ea. for P&H. T&D MARINE, Box 161, Green Village, N.J. 07935.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Ave., Dept. E., Central Islip, New York 11722; 516-234-0144.

ANTIQUE & CLASSIC TACKLE for Sale: Will sell as complete pkg. or separately. True Temper model Perfect solid steel, square, bait cating rod w/speedlock handle. Very good cond.; very rare, circa 1947. Shakespeare "Marhoff" levelwind bait casting reel; good cond., circa 1947; Calcutta cod-fish rod w/detachable butt, over & under guide, over/under tiptop circa mid-30s; Split bamboo boat rod, detachable butt, extra lightweight calcutta tip, agate-red-guides on bamboo, s.s. on cal. tip, circa late 30's; Shakespeare double built surf rod, detachable butt, s.s. guides, very rare, circa late 30s;, Split bamboo surf rod, detachable butt, red agate guides, maker unknown, circa late 30s; Montaugue "Clipper" split bamboo 4½' 1-pc. bait casting rod, red agate guides, circa late 30s-early 40s, rare; Fiberglass surf spinning rod, detachable butt, "Crusader Glass," circa '52; Centaur surf spinning reel, skirted spool, mint cond. in original bos w/extra spool in its own container; very, very rare; Ocean City #993 squidding reel in original box, very good cond., circa late 40s; Ocean City #9020 Imperial levelwind saltwater boat reel in original box, good cond., circa late 40s; South Bend #30 Oreno freshwater bait casting reel w/original instruction folder, very good cond., circa late 30s/early 40s, model B, rare; Ocean City "Inter-State" freshwater bait casting reel, jeweled end caps, very good condition, circa early 40s, very rare; Shakespeare "silent Tru-Art" auto. fly reel, #1835, model HN, made during 1st yr. co. mfg. this model; good oper. cond.; "Rotaree" fly box by Bill DeWitt Baits, Auburn, NY, circa 40s, rare name; Old no-name S.A. metal fly reel w/level silk line on same; National Sportsman bakelit fly reel, H&I, Utica, NY, old, silk line. Call Jim at 516-581-9061.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

Keene, N.H.—4.2 wooded acres. Water & elec. access. Must sell. Asking $10,000. Call after 6PM. 516-725-3915.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY—Florida Keys Tackle Shop, includes 4 canal lots, large building, launch ramp, located on highway, quick access to Pennekamp Park & all fishing areas. Call 9-4 Monday-Friday, 201-840-1974.

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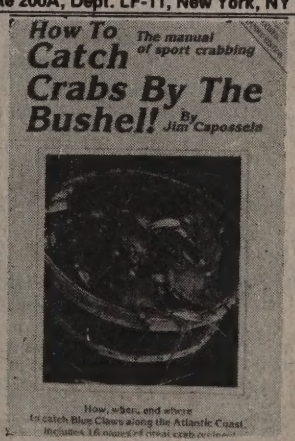
Available to retailers & fishermen at wholesale prices. $1.00 per lb.; 25 lb. minimum. Stock up now for fall bass run. 516-581-3563.

CASIO WATERSPORT WATCHES. THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT. People who take to the water will surely take to this digital, on the deck of a boat or below the waves, this watch is water resistant to (50 meters), 150' below the water. Features incl. stopwatch, hourly time signal, daily alarm, calendar, microlight for nite viewing. 5-yr. Lithium batt. Model W-22 now only $22.95. Model W-300, 100 meter, watersports, incl. all of the features of the W-22 plus hourly/half-hourly alarm, countdown alarm w/repeat, 7-yr. Lithium batt. Now only $29.95. Add $2.50 U.P.S. & handl. for each watch ordered. Both watches come with a 1-yr. warranty from Casio. Send check or M.O. to: INTER-AMERICA TRADING CORP., 16 W. 22nd St., Suite 200A, Dept. LF-11, New York, NY 10010.



CATCH MORE CRABS! Unique 64-page book w/diagrams, maps, 26 photos, 40 great blue crab recipes. $3.95 + $.75 postage from NORTHEAST SPORTSMAN'S PRESS, Box 188-B, Tarrytown, New York 10591.

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Continued On Next Page

A GREAT GIFT IDEA! Solid cast metal fish belt buckles. Avail. fluke, blue, striper, flounder, tuna, porgy, shark, harpoon dart. Also avail. striped bass pin. $6.95 ea. Send ck. or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

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Turn your favorite rods back to new. All types of rod repairs & wraps in stock. Custom built IGFA rods, 12, 20, 30, 50. Rods sold individually. Discounts on complete sets. Special orders accepted. 516-724-0478 after 6PM.

TERMITE PROOFING: Low, low prices. All work guaranteed. Easy payment plan. Complete clean-out: roaches, mice, ants, etc. GENERAL CORPORATION, 731-7100; 293-1819.

CAPTAIN WANTED for Long Line fishing. Modern hydraulic equipment, fully equipped radio, etc. 212-852-6642/837-0025/948-0705.

PIPE SMOKERS—Natural Briar "Rejects." "Perfect" fishing pipe. $5 ppd. Pouch delicious Cavendish, $2 ppd. WESTWINDS, P.O. Box 201, College Pt., NY 11356.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—Available for charters, water deliveries, transfers, individual trips; boat handling instruction. 516-795-4498.

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FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounder are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design & construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made finest quality material. 3 completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

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blackfish and flounders are still in the water. Flatfish activity is centered on both sides of Orient Point, but we learned from local sharpie Red Manarel that results late last week were meager. Blackfish angling in very deep water seemed much better, but Manarel found the big tautog up to 10 lbs. very picky. It was either fiddler crabs or nothing.

Ed Kopack at **Warren's** suggested that flounder at the mouth of Indian Island Creek were worth trying, and that there were still a few small bass around. There were no numbers off the beaches, but boat anglers using umbrellas did somewhat better. One anomalous 43 lb. linesider was taken on a bucktail, but most of the fish were schoolies in the 5 lb. class. Incidentally, Warren's still has worms.

Anna May Rainis tells us that John will be sailing the **Blue Albatross** from Greenport through next weekend. He may be moving down toward Fishers Island starting Monday, although Sunday's results were decent for blackfish in local waters. Rainis put six cod to 8 lbs. on board on Thursday and expects to be mixing cod in with the blacks from time to time. For sailing plans, it's a good idea to call ahead, because Rainis doesn't believe in forcing the fishing in a heavy blow.

All readers should note that no open boats will be sailing Thanksgiving Day.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

This week brings to a close our 1982 "Surf Reports." With sources of info drying up and fishing interest on the wane, piecing together enough info for a worthwhile report becomes an impossible task.

This past week was a good example, although a big heave and easterly blow since Friday didn't really allow for a fair assessment of the south shore surf picture. The last bluefish to come to my attention was a lone 10 lber. taken Friday AM at Robert Moses parking field #4 and I suspect that this fish marked the end of one of the best south shore bluefish runs in recent memory.

There should be a few bass trickling down the beaches over the next couple of weeks but with the stocks reduceas they are, I doubt very much that there will be any semblance of a "run." For the vast majority of surfmen, 1982 has been relegated to memories.

I do have some very notable stripers to report on before closing

LIF subscriber, Bob Gruber, kneels beside nine blues to 15 lbs. that he beached in the Fire Island surf on 10-16-82.

shop. Jason Colby, who wandered to Montauk in search of greener pastures than his usual western beat, used fresh sand eels to take a 56 lb. striper from the Ditch Plains surf shortly before dawn last Tuesday.

A 53½ pounder taken on a Kastmaster at West End Jones Beach around 9AM Wednesday morning was confirmed by several sources. Another impressive West End fish was taken a week ago Saturday night but the report was received too late to make last week's column. Chris Flannery of Levittown used a 5½" sinking Rebel teamed with a Red Gill dropper to take a 51 lb. cow on the backside of the inlet.

The only North Shore news concerned school bass in the Hempstead Harbor area, at Mt. Sinai and out at Horton's Point where the pattern seems to be a flurry of striper activity for an hour before dawn on Rebels or RedFins and droppers. The bass are small, ranging between shorts and 20 inches.

One last fish worth mentioning, though not taken here on the Island, was the 69 lb. bass caught in the Sandy Hook surf last week by Tom Russell. Caught on a swimming plug, the huge striper was weighed at **Julian's Sport Shop.**

That should do it for this year. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the column over the season and to everyone, a short and mild winter!

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	2:30	2:50	3:35	3:50	3:20	3:25	4:35	4:45	5:45	6:05	6:00	6:20	2:45	3:05	11/25
FRI.	3:30	3:50	4:30	4:40	4:10	4:25	5:20	5:35	6:40	7:05	6:50	7:15	3:40	3:55	11/26
SAT.	4:25	4:45	5:15	5:30	5:05	5:20	6:00	6:20	7:30	8:00	7:40	8:05	4:25	4:45	11/27
SUN.	5:15	5:40	6:00	6:20	5:50	6:10	6:45	7:10	8:20	8:50	8:30	8:55	5:10	5:30	11/28
MON.	6:00	6:25	6:45	7:05	6:35	6:55	7:25	7:55	9:05	9:40	9:15	9:45	5:55	6:20	11/29
TUE.	6:50	7:15	7:30	7:50	7:20	7:45	8:10	8:45	9:55	10:35	10:05	10:35	6:45	7:05	11/30
WED.	7:35	8:00	8:20	8:40	8:05	8:35	8:55	9:35	10:45	11:25	10:50	11:25	7:30	7:55	12/1
THUR.	8:20	8:55	9:05	9:30	8:55	9:30	9:45	10:25	11:35	–	11:40	–	8:20	8:50	12/2

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

12/26	7:03	4:32
11/27	7:04	4:31
11/28	7:05	4:31
11/29	7:06	4:30
11/30	7:07	4:30
12/1	7:08	4:30
12/2	7:09	4:29

Moonrise/Moonset

11/26	2:20PM	1:37AM
11/27	2:48PM	2:42AM
11/28	3:17PM	3:51AM
11/29	3:51PM	5:02AM
11/30	4:31PM	6:17AM
12/1	5:19PM	7:32AM
12/2	6:16PM	8:44AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
12/15	12/23	12/1	12/7

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	—	6:05	12:15	6:30
Fri.	12:45	6:50	1:00	7:10
Sat.	1:25	7:30	1:40	7:55
Sun.	2:10	8:15	2:25	8:40
Mon.	2:55	9:05	3:15	9:30
Tues.	3:45	9:55	4:05	10:25
Wed.	4:40	10:50	5:00	11:25
Thurs.	5:40	11:50	6:00	—

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